BARRIERS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Feedback from the trainers: part 1

Barriers for disadvantaged learners to access education

- Mental Health Issues like depression and anxiety
- Financial stress and inablity to manage day-to-day living like paying rent, bills or loans, due to unemployment
- Inability to engage in education programs due to drug and alcohol problems
- Gambling issues faced by learners themselves or their family members
- Inability to attend due to lack of support or access to childcare
- Lack of concentration due to long hours, specially in cases of learning difficulties
- Lack the confidence, experience barriers related to age, sex, race or religion
- Inability to commit to education due to casual work commitments
- Distress due to pending legal issues

The adult education trainers from Learn Local / training organisations, who deal with women adult learners at risk with multiple barriers, were consulted through multiple forums. Feedback was collected from 30 trainers through this process on the following topics.

Possible ways to support learners to overcome barriers

- Providing a range of support services including childcare, legal support, counselling, interpreters, family support
- Providing gender specific classes if required
- Assisting students to set goals, finding pathways offering them support to build self-esteem
- Developing a strong rapport with the students and ensuring an open line of communication
- Access to well-trained interpreters when students have limited English language skills.
- Developing interest based activities. E.g. Community-learning outside a classroom.
- Offering professional development to trainers on range of social and welfare issues to support students.
- Inviting guest speakers into the classroom to deliver information on different topics e.g.: Centrelink, Health services, Legal services
- Engaging student in Neighbourhood House projects
- Bringing leaders of religious groups or community leaders to speak to students
- Encourage students to interact with students from different cultures and backgrounds
- Providing students information about the other programs offered by **commUnity+**

CAIF Project Factsheet 04(a) - Barriers (Trainers)

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