



## SPARK Community Events and Activities Volunteer

<b>Location</b>	Various locations in Western Sydney
<b>Why we need you?</b>	SPARK is a settlement support program that provides social, cultural and educational support to newly arrived children and families of refugee and migrant background. Throughout the year SPARK and our partners host several community events and activities that are only made possible by the efforts of our amazing volunteer team.
<b>Who we need?</b>	Enthusiastic, energetic and positive volunteers who bring a sense of fun to activities whether they're working with adults or children. Volunteers are patient, approachable and sensitive to cross-cultural issues and challenges. We are looking for volunteers who are flexible and can support non-regular or occasional events that might include weekend and school holiday work. They are team orientated, committed and reliable. A reasonable knowledge of English is required. Previous experiences working with children or experience in event management, are <i>desirable</i> .
<b>What you will be doing?</b>	This is a varied and flexible role as SPARK events and activities range from workshops and information evenings, promotional events, family excursions, bushwalks, recreational and sports events, and <i>so much more</i> . You will be working with families from refugee and migrant backgrounds who may have limited English. At all events, volunteers help to maintain the safety, welfare and well-being of participants by adhering to program rules and guidelines. We expect our volunteers to arrive on time, help set-up and pack-up, and participate in team preparation and de-brief meetings.
<b>What will you get out of it?</b>	This is a fun and creative way to experience the diversity and richness of other cultures while enjoying the rewards of helping others. SPARK volunteers are well supported with professional help and ongoing training available. Leadership opportunities are available.
<b>How long is the commitment?</b>	Volunteers join a roster and attend events as available and agreed in advance. Volunteers commit to a minimum of 2 events per year – <i>but we would love you to attend more</i>
<b>Want to know more?</b>	For more information, call us on 9568 0280 or apply directly at <a href="http://spark.vinnies.org.au">spark.vinnies.org.au</a>



## IMPACT

SPARK's key aim is that families and children from a refugee, asylum seeker and migrant background settle well. They are able to fully participate in the community's social, educational and economic life, and so are less vulnerable to exclusion and discrimination, social and health issues, and disadvantage.

**Children:** Newly arrived children from a refugee and migrant background settle well into school and their community. They have learning and social skills, and make good academic progress. They have resilience and good emotional and mental health.

**Families:** Newly arrived families settle well into the school and local community. Parents engage with and support children's learning; have the confidence and knowledge to connect with the school and the awareness, skills and connections to access support and progress their settlement.

**Schools:** Schools have the capacity to support the successful settlement of newly arrived children and families into school and the school community. Schools partner on initiatives that support the children's learning and adjustment, and engage parents in children's learning and in school community activities.

**SPARK delivers programs across 10 schools in Western Sydney and works with several community partners within Fairfield, Liverpool, Auburn and Parramatta.**

**SPARK reaches 300 children on weekly basis and another 200 children through workshop based programs. It engages and supports 150 parents and toddlers through workshops, excursions and support programs.**

**Join our volunteer team! Fill in an application form at [spark.vinnies.org.au](http://spark.vinnies.org.au)**



*"I have had a wonderful time at the program, it felt awesome being a part of something big, meeting like-minded people...but above all, having some laughs."*

- SPARK Volunteer

*"SPARK is a great program for kids because it gives them a chance in life and it gives them a bright life, and if they cooperate, they will be a star."*

- SPARK Student