

Homework Support Program - Evaluation Report

July 2016 – June 2017

Under the Settlement Grants Program the Migrant Information Centre (MIC) facilitated six Homework Support Programs (HSP) covering the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR). Three HSPs were offered at the Croydon, Mooroolbark and REALM libraries and three HSPs in primary schools in Croydon, Heathmont and Mooroolbark. The HSP assists children and young people to do their homework, improve their written English, reading and comprehension skills, develop study skills and routines and provide opportunities for children to make new friends and build social skills. All programs are facilitated by MIC staff and trained volunteer tutors. All HSP run every week during school terms.

An average of 118 students attended the programs on a weekly basis. The average number of students that attended each program include:

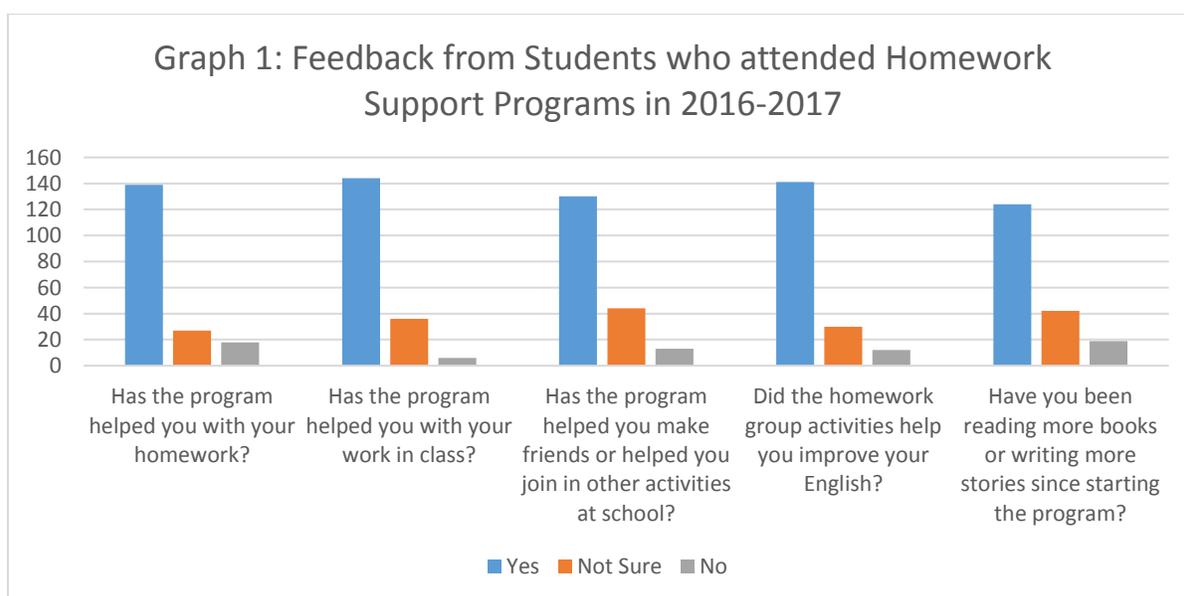
- Croydon Primary (35 students)
- Great Ryrie Primary School (37 students)
- Manchester Primary School (22 students)
- Croydon Library (9 students)
- Mooroolbark Library (7 students)
- REALM Library (8 students)

Feedback

Feedback was collected from students, teachers, parents and volunteers associated with the programs. Both quantitative and qualitative feedback was sort on two occasions through feedback forms (December 2016 and June 2017).

Students

Feedback was collected from a total of 187 students. Feedback from students indicate a high level of satisfaction with the programs, with 76% of students stating the program has helped them with their homework as well as 77% of students reported the program helped them to improve their English. See *Graph 1*.

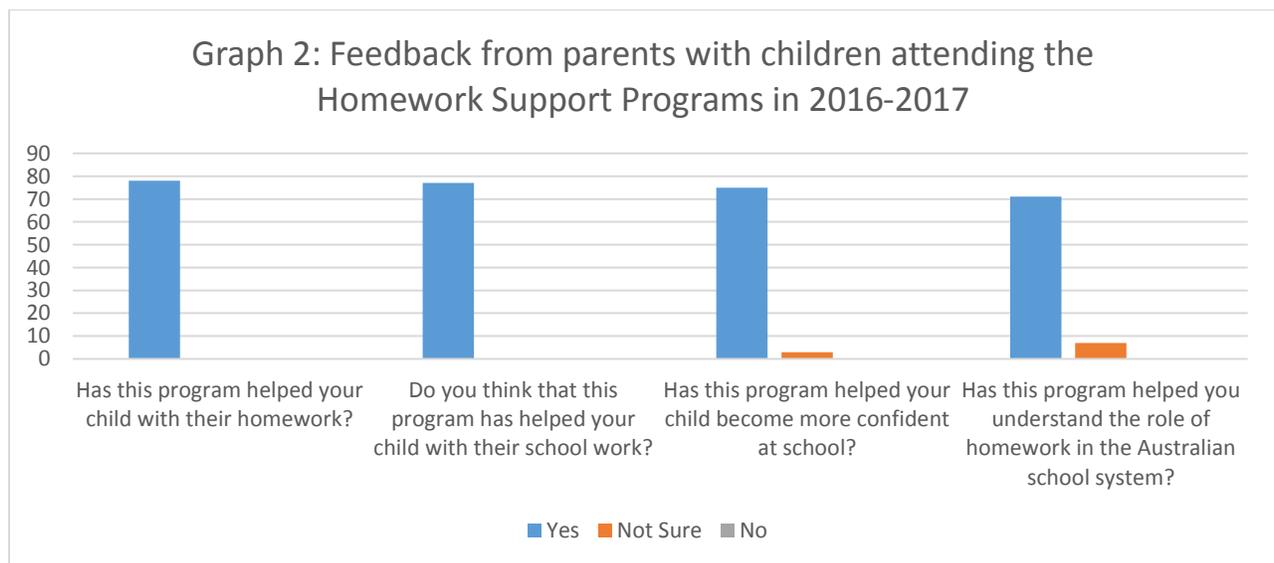


Comments from students who participated in the program included:

- *I got helped in all of my subjects, especially maths. My English has got better. I have got an excellent results for my subjects throughout my studies.*
- *This kind of program is awesome and very important for migrants and refugees. This program has helped me much more than I expected. The program is awesome. It should be done in more places so more people can attend.*
- *Since I joined this homework club, I had improved in my English speaking, writing, and answering questions. My teachers at school also noticed that my scores are getting better and this program has become my best tutor. The volunteers are very helpful and friendly to me. They all are supportive and help me to become the best I can.*
- *It help me with all my assignment. The subject that help me the most was humanity. It also helps me improve my language skill and pronounce words properly. I wouldn't finish all of my homework without the homework club help now.*
- *The volunteers are very helpful and they always explain me whatever I ask. Their explanation makes easier for me to understand my school work and my marks are gradually getting better since I joined this supportive homework program.*

Parents

Feedback was collected from a total of 79 parents. Feedback from parents indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program, with 100% of parents agreeing that the program helped their children with their homework and their school work. The vast majority (over 90%) of parents reported that the program helped their children become more confident at school and assisting them to understand the role of homework in the Australian school system. See *Graph 2*.

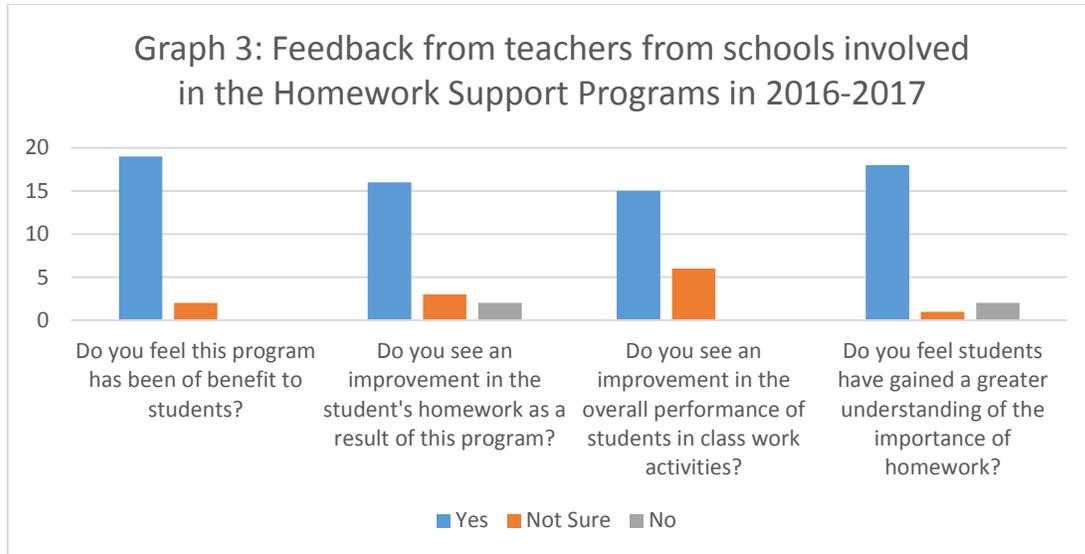


Comments from parents with children who participated in the program included:

- *The homework program is very helpful, not only for my children but for the parents, myself as well. If possible, it would be better if we can have two days a week.*
- *My son enjoys so much this class. I really would like to thank you for this class. Thanks MIC. They can answer with a longer sentence when they were asked questions. Please continue this program.*
- *It would be better if the students can receive more one-on-one attention.*
- *Thank you very much. The homework program is very good. They learned how to do homework at home and met new friends.*

Teachers

Feedback was collected from a total of 17 teachers from the three primary schools involved. Feedback from teachers was overall positive, with 90% of teachers agreeing that the program had been a benefit to students. 76% of teachers felt that they had seen an improvement in the student's homework as a result of the program. See *Graph 3*.

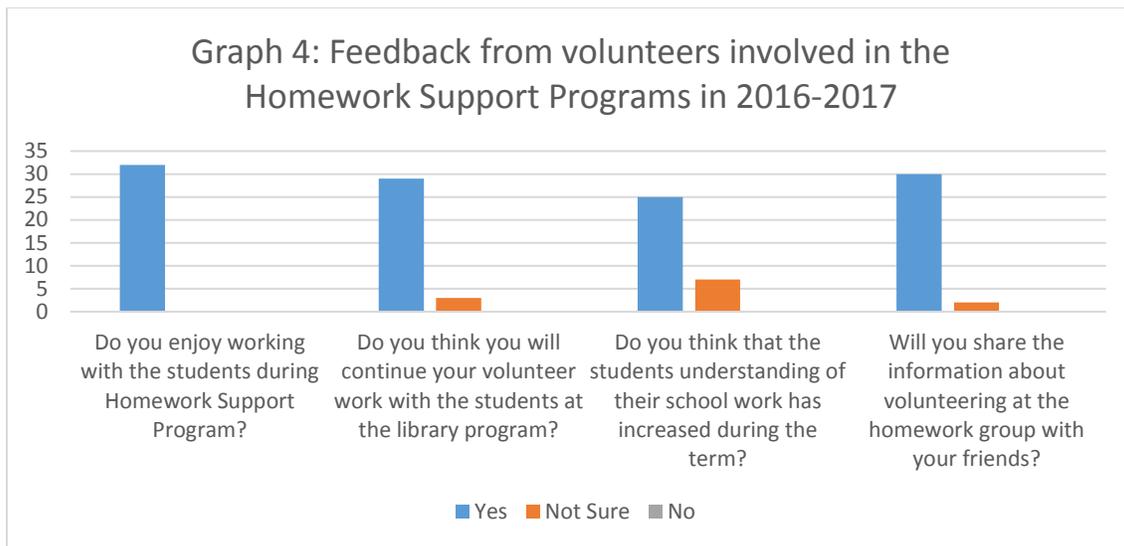


Comments from teachers from schools involved in the programs included:

- *Such a wonderful program – children really benefit from English talking time, reading, maths and writing help.*
- *Thank you. The students enjoy the sessions and enjoy sharing their learning with the classroom teacher.*
- *Reading and spelling work is helping support class work.*
- *It gives [the students] greater confidence to bring to their learning.*
- *The impact on the students is a valuable one and helps give them confidence and a sense of belonging to the school community.*

Volunteers

Feedback was collected from a total of 32 volunteers. Feedback from volunteers was overall positive, with 100% of volunteers reporting that they enjoyed working with students during the Homework Support Program. 78% of volunteers felt that the students understanding of their school work had increased as a result of the program. See *Graph 4*.



Comments from volunteers involved in the programs included:

- *I feel that it is making a real contribution to the success of the student participants in their education. It helps their understanding of English and participation at school.*
- *It's rewarding to give some one on one attention to students and the response received in terms of attendance and improvement.*
- *The staff/student ratio is a little high so there is a tendency to help the students too much instead of encouraging them to have a go.*