

# Homework Support Program (HSP) - Evaluation Report

July 2019 – June 2020

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In 2019/2020, the Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) (MIC) facilitated six Homework Support Programs (HSP) within the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR). Three HSPs were offered at the Croydon, Mooroolbark and REALM libraries and three HSPs were offered 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 HSPs run weekly during school terms.

From July 2019 until February 2020, an average of 71 students attended the programs on a weekly basis. Due to COVID lockdown in March 2020, all HSPs were transferred to online programs to ensure support was available for all students. The participant numbers decreased during lockdown (March 2020 – June 2020) with an average of 38 students attending the programs on a weekly basis.

## Feedback

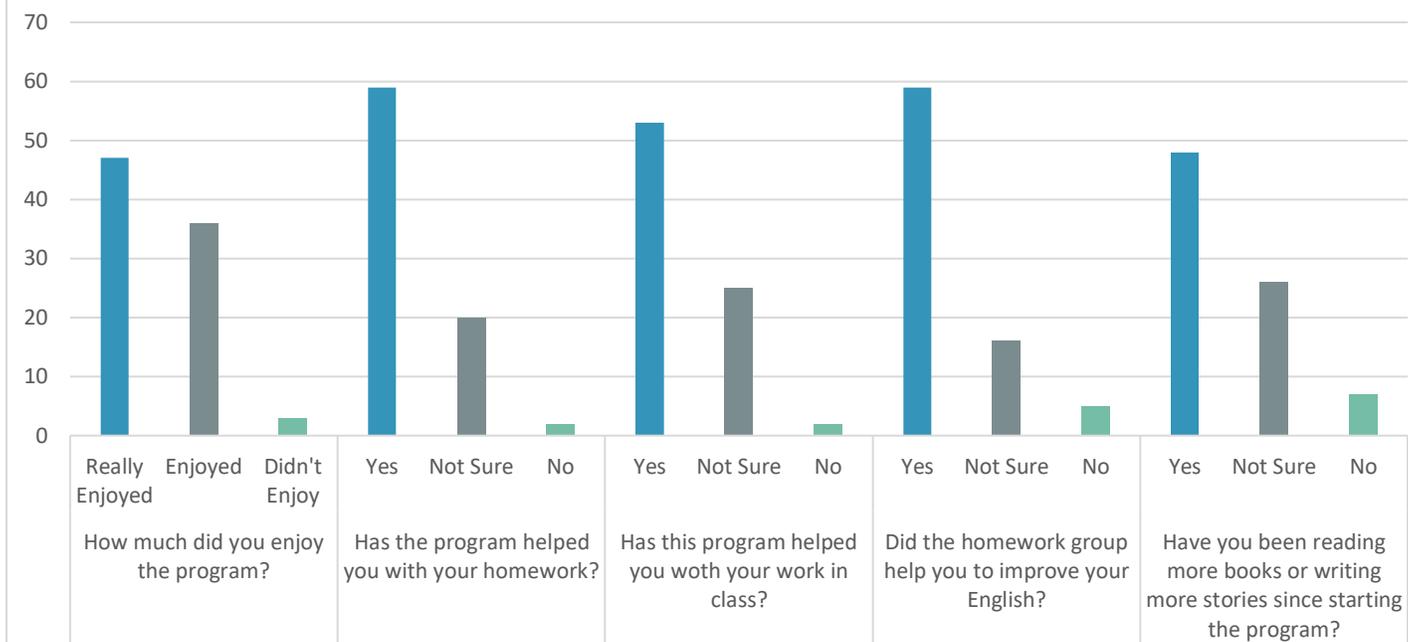
Feedback was collected from students, teachers and parents associated with the programs. Where possible, both quantitative and qualitative feedback was sort on two occasions through feedback forms (December 2019 and June 2020).

## Students

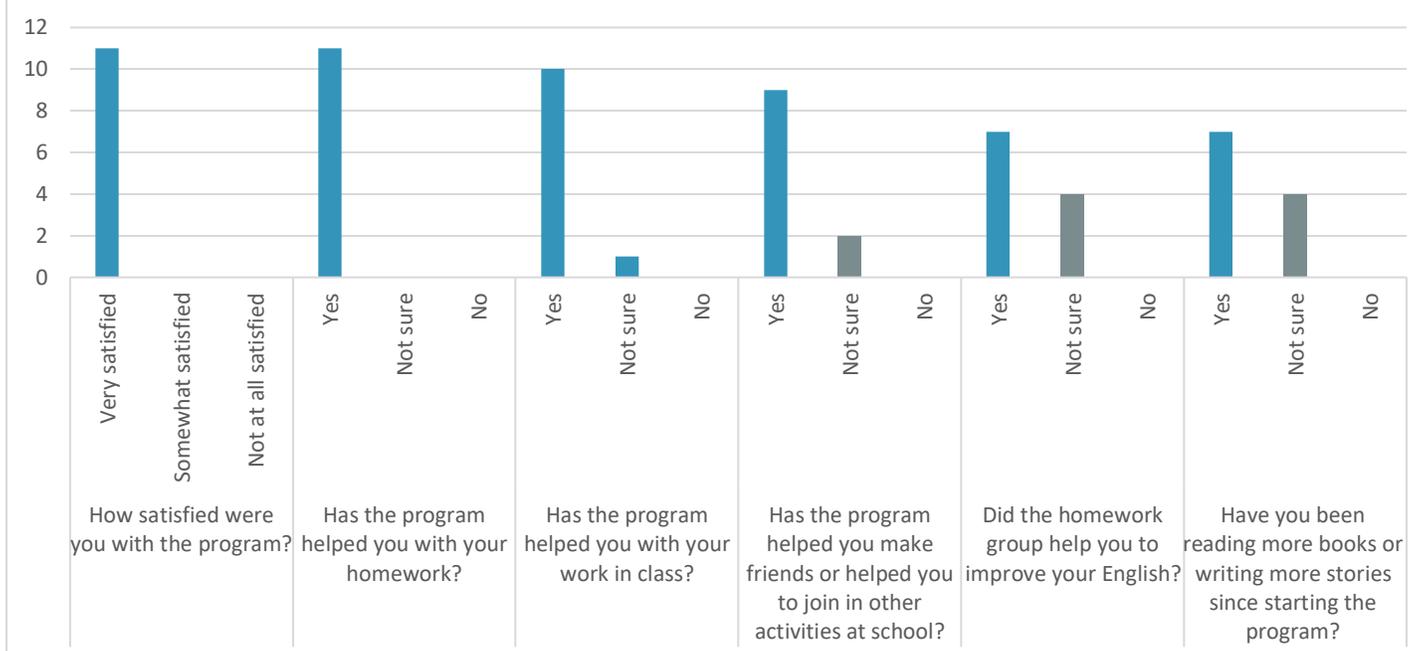
Feedback was collected from a total of 92 students. In December 2019, 61 students provided feedback and in June 2020 there were 31 students who provided feedback. Majority of the students who responded were the same.

Feedback from students indicate a high level of satisfaction with the programs, with 97% (83 out of 86) of primary school students stating that they either 'enjoyed' or 'really enjoyed' the program. 66% (53 out of 80) of primary school students reported that the program has helped them with their work in class and 95% of secondary students reported that the program has helped them with their homework and work in class. See Graph 1 and Graph 2.

**Graph 1: Feedback from Primary Students who attended HSP in 2019 - 2020**



**Graph 2: Feedback from Secondary Students who attended HSP in 2019**



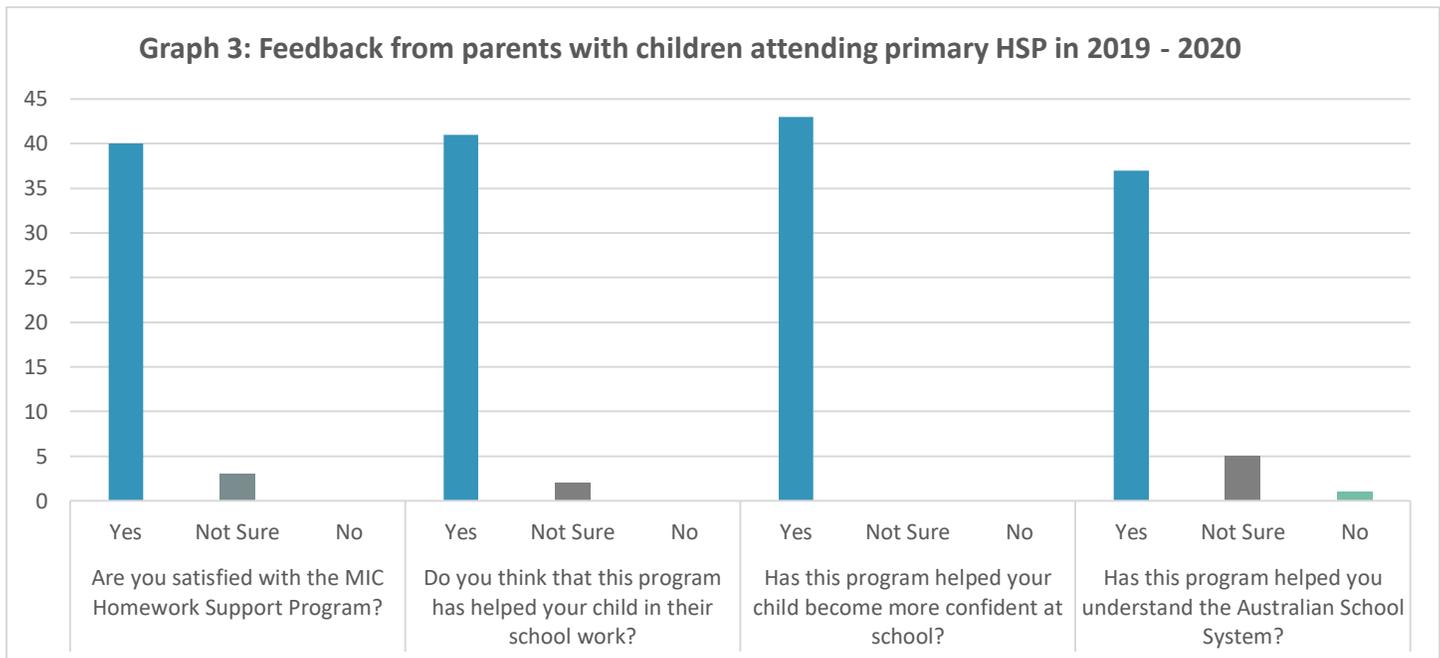
Comments from students who participated in the program included:

- It help me to read more - thank you.
- It really help me with spelling.

- I enjoy the food and it help me a lot with my homeworks.
- I love to sing the Times tables.
- Thank you. Homework Club help me with my English.
- I wish all the teachers from HSP to be here forever.
- Go to other places like excursions for homework club if there is a special event.
- Tutors explain work required in detailed and in a more simple way for me to understand. Also, through different conversations with the tutors I develop a better communication with my peers as well as my teachers.
- Really appreciate tutors offering and how patient and understanding they are with us. The food is great, nutritious and fulfilled our hungry stomachs.
- The tutors are really nice and patient. They are also encouraging and determine to helps us improve our English.
- Tutors are Awesome!! They are passionate about giving us their invaluable time for us to excel in our school learning.
- Thank you so much for having me and helping me with my study and finish my VCE successfully.

### Parents

Feedback was collected from a total of 43 parents of students attending HSPs at primary schools. Feedback from parents indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program, with 95% of parents agreeing that the program helped their children in their school work. All (100%) of parents reported that the program helped their children become more confident at school. See Graph 3.

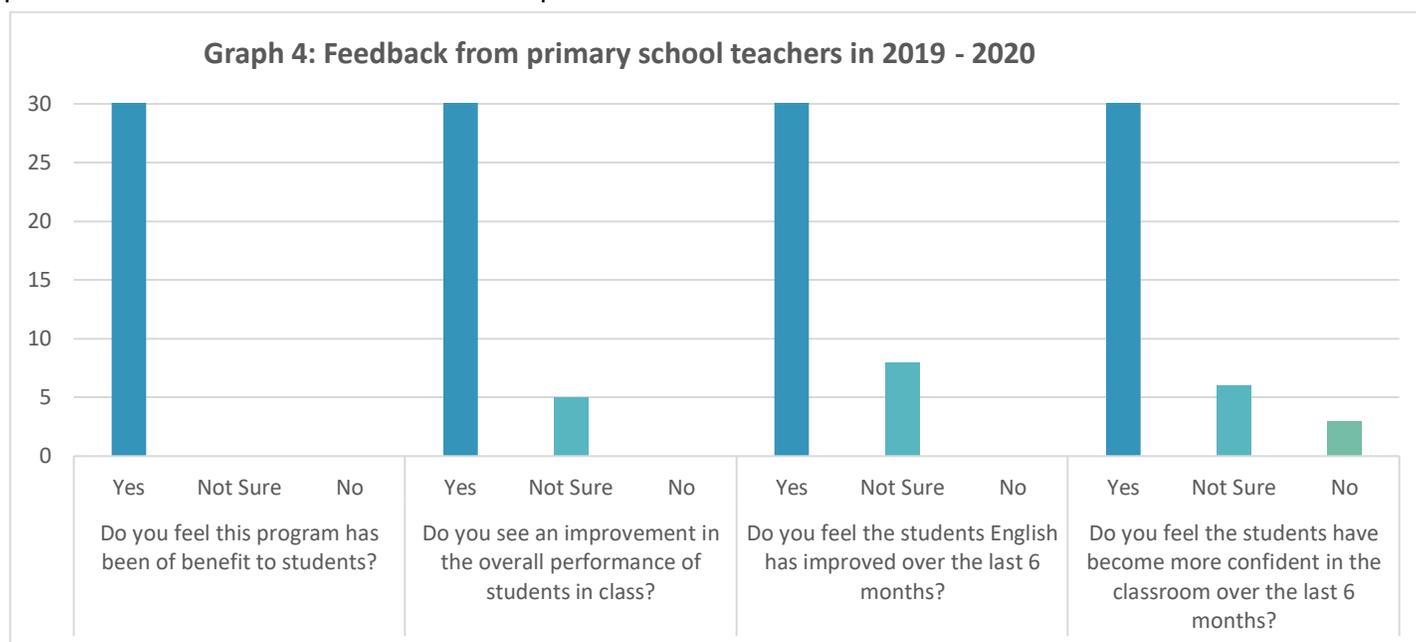


Comments from parents with children who participated in the program included:

- This program will help (my child) progress. Thank you.
- Helping the children means helping our family and we hope the program will run next year.
- It has helped my child connect with other Chin students.
- Very helpful because as a parent we are unable to help our children with their homework.
- The program helped the children to do better at school and to better express themselves.
- Very thankful for teaching our children the skills they need, especially when we cannot teach or help them with the language.

### Teachers

Feedback was collated from a total of 43 responses from teachers from the three primary schools involved. Feedback from teachers was overall positive, with 100% of teachers agreeing that the program had been a benefit to students. 88% of primary teachers (38 out of 43) reported an improvement in the overall performance of students in class. See Graph 4.



Comments from teachers from primary schools involved in the programs included:

- I think it builds student confidence, I've noticed a flow-on effect in the classroom.
- Without this support these students would struggle to do homework in 5/6 and they often have no-one to read with.
- Students have shown far greater enthusiasm for school.
- Students participate in conversations more and have shown improvement in reading, writing and speaking.
- It is great for students to receive the extra support and the relationships they have with the volunteers.

- Gives students an opportunity to do some of the home learning tasks (such as take-home book reading) that parents may not be able to help them with.
- Reading fluency improvements, maths mental computation skills improvements, sentence structure improvements
- I think homework club is an extremely valuable program and the staff so an amazing job.
- Students engaged and enjoying their learning space. The more students feel safe in the learning spaces the more relaxed they are during school time. Kids have the opportunity to gain extra tuition. It's lovely to see different nationalities at our school, it sends a positive message to the wider community.