

REFLECTION

This reflection is based on my Work and Welcome experience at Padua College in Kedron Brisbane from 13th July to 31th August 2015. Work and Welcome is a great opportunity for migrants and refugees who have not had any job experience in the Australian work place.

My manager in Padua College was Mark Taylor and he is founder of this program too.

Padua College is a great place to work and learn. During my short Work and Welcome experience in this place I did a different type of job as a support staff in Science Lab and Industrial Skills and other parts. In this short time, I practiced many new things with different professional background and enjoyed all of them.

From the first minutes of my arrival in Padua College all the staff were so enthusiastic to make familiar with me and know where I am from, why I came to the Australia and which difficulties I had dealt with.

I was also so keen to talk to them about all things that happened to me. There was the same interaction between me and students too.

These conversations between me and students motivated me to make a PowerPoint which was about the issues around my religion and the process of coming to Australia.

This led to strengthening of my communication with them.

During a short period, I have learned various skills such as knowledge about biology and chemistry in the science lab, how to make different kinds of foods in the tuck shop and how to use different tools for making wooden materials in the industrial skills.

I remember a great day which I was taken to the IT room and shown very huge and complicated machines. Every details about those machines was explained to me which was a fabulous experience for me.

Mark Taylor also was looking after me every moment and managing my activities which was a great help to me to be able to do all the planned jobs.

Fortunately or unfortunately before completing the Work and Welcome program I have found a new job and had to leave Padua collage without saying goodbye to its nice people.

I am so grateful and consider myself lucky to have had this opportunity to be involved in the Work and Welcome Programme. Thank you to the Multicultural Development Association (MDA) for selecting me for this Programme. I also appreciate the great help done by Padua College for newcomers to Australia. My special thanks goes to Mr Mark Taylor, the founder of Work and Welcome Programme, for doing such a great job, John (Industrial Skills), Chris and Wendy (Science lab), Sandra (Library), Robyn (Tuck shop) and all the nice people as a whole for their collaboration. The time I spent in the school is a wealth for me and I would love to be back at Padua College in the future – thank you so much.

God Bless you all.

Best Regards

Payam Yazdani – (originally from Iraq)

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