



## Book Buddies

Engaging Baby Boomers through  
volunteering at Whitehorse Manningham  
Libraries  
Presentation by Georgina Earl & Christina  
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## Establishing the Program

Partnering with Louise Multicultural Centre

## Program Inception

- Community engagement with local multicultural centre
- Community need identified
- Opportunity for resource sharing
- Commitment to pilot program from Term 2, 2009

## Program Aims

Aims of the program were focussed on outcomes for the students

- Improved English skills
- Greater comfort conversing
- Becoming familiar with the library
- Reduced social isolation

## Finding volunteers

Volunteer recruitment through

- Library website
- Council website
- Posters displayed at library branches
- Word of mouth

## Who volunteered?

- Some interest from university students
- Some interest from stay at home parents
- Some interest from those in part time employment
- Large amount of interest from Baby Boomers



## Program Outcomes

- Book Buddies has been operating successfully for 3 years
- Some volunteers have been with the program since inception
- Positive feedback from students and volunteers
- Students are more confident using their English skills
- Students and volunteers use the public library
- Students gained social skills and engagement in the community

## ~~Why did it appeal to Baby~~ Boomers?

- Informal sessions
- No training required – using skills they already have
- Social aspect
- Being valued
- Being relevant
- Giving back to the community

## Case Studies

- Margaret
- Judi
- Susan
- Michael
- Gila

Questions?

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