



St Vincent de Paul Society

VoRTCS Program *good works*

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have any teaching experience?

No previous experience is necessary to join the program. Our tutors use their existing knowledge of English, the community and schooling. We provide tutors with basic training and ongoing learning opportunities. All you need is a willingness to help out a refugee family over an extended period of time.

Do I need to have my own transport to tutor?

While it's an advantage to have your own transport, it's not a requirement. As tutoring is done in small groups, if you do not have a car then we will try to match you with someone who lives near you and does have their own transport. Of course, you are more than welcome to catch public transport to visit your family, and you will find that many families live quite close to public transport as they often have to use it themselves.

I want to tutor with my friend/partner. Is this possible?

Yes, of course and if you don't already know someone then we will place you with a team of volunteers who want to tutor in the same area and on the same days as you.

What happens when I cannot attend due to sickness, studies, work commitment or holidays?

We understand that our tutors have plans and commitments outside of volunteering. If you are unable to attend tutoring for one or more weeks you just need to give your team enough notice so they can ensure tutoring still goes ahead as normal. If you are going away for an extended period of time, it may be that your team needs a replacement tutor whilst you are unable to attend.

Can I change the day and time that I tutor?

All days and times for tutoring sessions are negotiated between the tutors and the family to

ensure the arrangement suits you as best as possible. If you would like to change the day or time that you tutor, simply discuss this with your family and team.

I would prefer to tutor adults. Is this possible?

Yes definitely, often the parents or young adult children need a lot of assistance as well to understand the English language and to navigate the community.

What resources and support are available to tutors?

All tutors are provided with a Tutoring Handbook that includes tips from experienced ESL teachers and access to the VoRTCS Tutor Library and online resources. Ongoing support is provided to your team and family via our staff, Training team, Tutor Mentor and volunteer community of over 300+ tutors.

Can the families speak English?

Generally there is at least one family member who speaks enough English to communicate well, though that may be a child. Children often have been attending Australian schools for long enough that they are able to speak English quite well, though often have difficulty reading and writing it. Many of our parents do not have good English, and tutoring is an invaluable opportunity for them to practice their English conversation skills. Most parents are or have attended a TAFE English course, and all school-aged children are attending school.

What if I can't guarantee to make it every week?

If you have a busy schedule and are not sure that you will be able to make it to your tutoring session each week, let us know and we will match you up into a larger group or discuss the options of a different VoRTCS role. It is important that you can at least attend 3 out of 4 weeks a month.

Have another question?

Contact us on 07 3010 1069 or email us at info.vortcs@svdpqld.org.au.