



# Centre for Workforce Futures

in co-operation with Settlement Services International Ltd.

## IGNITE SMALL BUSINESS START-UP INITIATIVE

**Settlement Services International (SSI)  
Ignite Small Business Start-Up Initiative  
for people from refugee backgrounds**

**Dina Petrakis**  
SSI IGNITE Global Manager

LOCATION: 120 Lend Lease Room, 1 Management Drive, Macquarie University NSW 2109

**25 September 2019**

2:00–3:30 PM

### ABSTRACT

The Settlement Services International, Ignite Small Business Start Ups program, has achieved national and international success in working with refugees who dream of starting their own business in Australia and more recently in Canada.

One of the key principles of the program is the establishment of a resource team. The resource team provides much needed guidance and support to new entrepreneurs helping them understand and navigate the highly regulated Australian business environment.

SSI developed the initiative in 2013 to facilitate small business creation for people from a refugee and migrant background by tapping into their existing skills, knowledge and experience. Through the involvement of a business facilitator and a resource team that includes experts, volunteers and university students, the program supports participants to navigate and succeed in the Australian business environment.

Dina Petrakis, the Ignite Global Manager, hopes her presentation will be of interest to Macquarie University students undertaking studies in: Business, Accounting, Marketing and Finance, who wish to support refugee entrepreneurs by becoming part of the Ignite Resource Team.

<https://www.ignite.ssi.org.au/>

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dina Petrakis is the Ignite Global Manager and has recently returned from Canada where she established the Ignite Small Business Start Ups program in Vancouver, British Columbia.

She has been involved in the operation and development of the Ignite Small Business Start Ups program since its inception in 2013. Dina will provide an overview of the program, its achievements to date and explain the role and responsibility of the resource team.

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### CONTACT US

Lynne Cousins  
**T:** +61 (2) 9850 7732 **E:** [lynne.cousins@mq.edu.au](mailto:lynne.cousins@mq.edu.au)

Jason Antony  
**T:** +61 (2) 9850 8533 **E:** [jason.antony@mq.edu.au](mailto:jason.antony@mq.edu.au)

**W:** <https://goto.mq/83>