

**VU WON THE
BEST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATION AWARD
FROM THE NATIONAL BUSINESS HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE**

The national Business Higher Education Roundtable has awarded VU its inaugural top prize for engagement out of a field of fourteen for our work bringing together community and government partners to support the growing number of newly arrived refugees in Melbourne's west from the Horn of Africa.



From left: Ms Lisa Paul Secretary DEST, Prof Peter Creamer VU,
Mr David Hind President Business Higher Education Round Table



From left: Prof Peter Creamer VU, Mr David Haynes, General Manager
SpiritWest Services, Western Bulldogs

Best Community Engagement Collaboration

Winner Victoria University, Horn of Africa Community Network Inc., Centacare Catholic Family Services, Western English Language School, The Western Bulldogs, Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Sunshine Magistrates Court.

Title: **Victoria University Engagement with Newly Arrived Refugee Communities from the Horn of Africa**

Victoria University brings together community and government partners to support the growing numbers of newly arrived refugees from the Horn of Africa to the West of Melbourne. This program has brought together communities who are traditional enemies. Starting in 2000 with the delivery of four community driven, educational support programs to young refugees and their parents delivered by Higher Education students (pre-service teachers). Weekly programs for the Eritrean, Ethiopian, Sudanese and Somali community groups ran for two years. The program continues today for all Horn of African communities and there have been extensive 'spin-off' programs that have been developed and implemented in partnership with a range of community, philanthropic and government organisations. These programs include customised educational bridging programs, a youth centre, scholarship programs and culturally appropriate dispute resolution processes.