



Paula Ben David

Settlement Services International (SSI), Work+Stay Community Engagement Practitioner

Currently Paula is developing the settlement model, community strategy, and is a key contributor on the implementation team for Work+Stay, a social enterprise initiative of Settlement Services International.

Work+Stay is an innovative hybrid. A profit for purpose enterprise, 100% regionally focused, designed to increase the talent flow out of our crowded cities into regional areas, spreading the benefits of migration into the regions, with respect at the heart of its operations. Respect for First Nations Communities, for regional businesses, their communities and for jobseekers of all backgrounds looking for a place to call home.

Paula also leads SSI's Welcome2Sydney project and was awarded a 2020 Zest Award in recognition of the projects outstanding success in building social cohesion and community harmony in Western Sydney. She is also the recipient of a highly commended NSW Humanitarian Award.

Paula has worked abroad as a resettlement case manager delivering advocacy, frontline support and aid to people seeking asylum. Closer to home she was an Amnesty International Australia, Intern Country Research Caseworker and Associate Campaigner advocating for the Community Sponsorship Program. Her experiences working in the community have reinforced her passion and commitment in advocacy for promoting sustainable settlement solutions.

Paula is committed to bringing the heart of community to the forefront of discussions around social cohesion, she is an advocate for developing strong community networks and working with individuals to build resilience and self-agency while respecting dignity and wellbeing.