

## Students brighten up tired furniture to help families in need

HUNDREDS of families in crisis throughout Melbourne's western suburbs are getting the help they need from the Western Emergency Relief Network to rebuild their lives.



***Kris, from Brookside College, restores a stool as part of the Hands On Learning Program.***

more engaged, discover their talents and experience success. She said the partnership with WEAN gave students the opportunity to learn and use new skills by working on real and meaningful projects while giving back to their local community.

WEAN is always in need of more volunteers and good quality donations.

If you can help, call Mr Butterworth on 0411 228 311

And now a team of 20 students from Brookside College in Caroline Springs has put their hands up to help restore and repair the donated furniture these families desperately need.

Since September last year WEAN, a not-for-profit organisation that supports people in emergency situations including house fires, family violence, refugees, new immigrants and the homeless, has helped more than 100 people and families in Melbourne's western suburbs, including 14 in Brimbank.

Mr Butterworth said until WEAN teamed up with Brookside College, it wasn't in a position to accept donations of damaged furniture, with a lot of it going to landfill. But now there was a team of students on hand to help, more donations could be saved and given to those who really need them.

He said the students, under supervision, did a wonderful job and WEAN had just dropped off its third delivery of furniture to the school."

Brookside College teacher Seral Fehmi said 20 students from Grade 5 to Year 9 took part in the Hands On Learning program, which aims to prevent early school leaving by creating opportunities at school for young people to be