

## Innovative Come Out event encourages kids to meet their neighbours

Liz Walsh – adelaidenow - May 22, 2013 1:06pm



Blair Athol students Zahra, 11, and Crystal, 11, with hairdresser Golda Pitia from African Beauty and Hair Picture: Naomi Jellicoe

**YOUR neighbourhood is not a scary place - that's the premise behind an innovative program running in this year's Come Out Festival.**

Students from Blair Athol North Primary School will be hosting a free tour on Saturday introducing people to the traders along Prospect Rd in Kilburn and Blair Athol.

The These are the People in Your Neighbourhood program - originally devised by Canadian company Mammalian Diving Reflex - is a positive "street-proofing" exercise, according to Come Out's creative producer Michael Hill.

"This means that rather than talking to children about the dangers in their neighbourhood, the idea is to develop a sense of community and a sense of

empowerment in children by getting to know the people they'll see down the street," he said.

Mr Hill said that it helped foster a sense of safety as well as community.

The students have met with eight local business owners, from the hardware store owner to the pet shop proprietor, a baker and a beekeeping equipment supplier.

They have devised their own questions to ask the traders and have created a tour booklet based on this.

"What the children are doing is taking charge and acting as tour guides for their own neighbourhood; spruiking their own neighbourhood and that's part of the sense of ownership," Mr Hill said.

Student, Zahra, 11, said she enjoyed interviewing each of the business owners.

"We have been asking them what they do, how they make things and what people come to their shop," she said.

Fellow student Sang, 12, said that he was looking forward to the tour.

"It's just getting to know people that you don't know from your neighbourhood," Sang said. "And there are so many people around my neighbourhood."

Zahra said that the program helped her feel safe and that if she was alone or lost, she could go to them for help.

Last week, the students met with Golda Pitia, the owner of African Beauty and Hair Stylists, who was born in Sudan and arrived in Melbourne in 2003.

Love brought Ms Pitia to Adelaide and she opened up African Beauty and Hair Stylists five years ago.

The 90-minute tour starts at 10.30am on Saturday at the Kilburn Community Centre. The Come Out Festival runs until May 31.

For more information and to book, see [www.comeout festival.com.au](http://www.comeoutfestival.com.au)

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/entertainment/festivals/innovative-come-out-event-encourages-kids-to-meet-their-neighbours/story-e6free4l-1226648378966>