## **Kenneth Bwihambi**

Kenneth Bwihambi is an 21 year old MC/writer/producer originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo who arrived in Australia as a refugee in late 2007. Music has always been a big part of his life; dancing came first then writing and performing music started after he moved to Australia and was exposed to the world of hip hop and reggae, and had the opportunity to study music and multimedia in high school. Encouraged and supported by his father, in 2010 Kenneth formed his own hip hop duo Young Ugees who performed extensively in Shepparton including Shepparton Festival, FReeZA events, Emerge at Twilight Festival and more. The duo produced several tracks and video clips and were also featured on the 2013 SheppSounds compilation supported by the local council. More recently Kenneth has shifted his focus to developing his own small independent label and creative enterprise EH Music. He has set up a home studio in Shepparton and is providing a space and a platform for local young artists from diverse backgrounds to write and record music and produce simple video clips. Kenneth has also played a vital role in establishing a new music mentoring program for African youth in Shepparton, Ignite Sound Sessions, in partnership with St.Paul's Lutheran Church and Multicultural Arts Victoria. He has worked along established industry professional Mohamed Komba (aka Momo) as a peer mentor and producer, contributing his skills, ideas and talents and collaborating with other young people in Shepparton to create a better and more supportive local scene that provides real opportunities and inspiration for aspiring artists.