

HIV AND CALD COMMUNITIES:

Mapping health
promotion programs
and resources



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Why the mapping	6
How to use this resource	7
Glossary	9
About AFAO	10
AFAO's CALD and African projects	11

NATIONAL

National organisations and networks	13
---	----

PEOPLE WITH HIV

Top Tips for Living Well with HIV	17
---	----

FAITH LEADERS

HIV & Stigma in Australia – A Guide for Religious Leaders.....	18
National meeting of African faith leaders	19

SEX WORKERS

Scarlet Alliance Migration Project	20
--	----

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Blood-Borne Viruses: A Resource for Professional Interpreters and Translators	23
---	----

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Key services	25
--------------------	----

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Migration Legal Clinic.....	26
-----------------------------	----

YOUTH

Sex education	27
---------------------	----

SEX WORKERS

SWOP ACT CALD Sex Worker Outreach Project	28
--	----

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students Sexual Health Education.....	30
--	----

NEW SOUTH WALES

Key services	32
--------------------	----

WHOLE COMMUNITY

African Community Development Project.....	33
African HIV Calendar	34

Cambodian HIV/AIDS Community Development Project	35
Chinese Community Development Project	36
Thai Community Development Project	37

PEOPLE WITH HIV

7 Good Reasons to Start HIV Treatment Now	39
African HIV-Positive Women's Group	39
Pozhet Western Sydney HIV Program.....	41
Women and HIV Factsheets	42

WOMEN

CALD Women and HIV Project	44
----------------------------------	----

MEN

African-Australian soccer tournament	46
Asian Gay Men's Peer Education Groups.....	47
Asian Project Internship Program.....	47
A-Men Project	49
CALD Gay Men Action Group.....	51
Chinese Gay Men's HIV Campaign	53
Gay community event partnership	55

SEX WORKERS

SWOP NSW CALD Project	58
-----------------------------	----

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Reproductive and Sexual Health Action Project for African Communities (RAP4AC)	60
--	----

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Key Services.....	63
-------------------	----

QUEENSLAND

Key Services.....	65
-------------------	----

WHOLE COMMUNITY

African Testing Project	66
HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Sexual Health Program	67
Condom sample packs	68
Engaging Community Leaders in the local HIV response.....	69
HIV education workshops	71
It's time to talk	72

PEOPLE WITH HIV

CALD Group.....	74
-----------------	----

MEN

Play Safe Soccer Project	75
--------------------------------	----

SEX WORKERS

Respect Inc Asian Focused Peer Education Program.....	76
--	----

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Key Services.....	79
-------------------	----

WHOLE COMMUNITY

African Communities HIV Conference	81
South Australian African Communities Health Advisory Committee (SAACHAC)	82
Travel Safe Booklet	83
Volunteer/Peer Program	84

WOMEN

CALD Women's Advisory Forum.....	86
----------------------------------	----

MEN

UNIDOS	88
--------------	----

YOUTH

Multicultural Youth Drive	90
---------------------------------	----

SEX WORKERS

South Australian Sex Industry Network (SIN) CALD Project.....	92
--	----

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student Health and Wellbeing Fact Sheets	94
---	----

SERVICE PROVIDERS

FRFreedom to Explore Sexual Health – CALD Focus	96
--	----

TASMANIA

Key Services.....	99
-------------------	----

VICTORIA

Key Services.....	101
-------------------	-----

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Community Education sessions.....	103
Cultures of care: African communities in regional Victoria	104
Peer Education	104

MEN

Gay Asian Proud.....	106
Talk Asian	107

YOUTH

Hip Hop & Health (H3)	109
Sister2sister.....	110
MHSS Youth Ambassador Program.....	110

FAITH LEADERS

Hand in Hand (Tip Sheet).....	112
-------------------------------	-----

SEX WORKERS

RhED.....	114
-----------	-----

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Multicultural Sexual Health Network (MSHN)	116
--	-----

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Key Services and Networks	119
---------------------------------	-----

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Community mobilisation – the Ambassador Program.....	120
Ethiopian radio program	121
World AIDS Day event	122

MEN

LOVE Game - HIV awareness football tournament	124
--	-----

YOUTH

Sharing Stories Project	126
-------------------------------	-----

SEX WORKERS

Magenta.....	128
--------------	-----

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Sexual health promotion for international students	130
UWA International Student Health and Wellbeing Fact Sheets	131
UWA International Student Health and Wellbeing Workshops	132

SERVICE PROVIDERS

HIV training for professionals	134
Your Cultural Lens	135

INTRODUCTION

People from countries with a high prevalence of HIV (and their partners) are listed as a priority population in Australia's Seventh National HIV Strategy due to the relatively higher rates of HIV in their communities, and the particular challenges they may face in relation to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Between 2009 and 2013, around 25% of all new HIV diagnoses were among people born in countries with a high prevalence of HIV in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. While actual numbers remain fairly low, they have increased significantly since 2000.

Social research and community consultations have identified that people living with HIV from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities can experience a number of challenges that affect their quality of life, such as late and unexpected diagnosis, immigration issues, stigma, and difficulty accessing treatment while on temporary visas.

People in CALD communities may also be more vulnerable to HIV due to myths and misconceptions around HIV transmission and illness, gender inequity, cultural sensitivities around talking about sex, stigma, homophobia, racism, and cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing services (including HIV testing).

WHY THE MAPPING?

Multicultural health services, HIV community organisations and government agencies have been working with CALD communities to address these issues through a diverse range of targeted programs and resources. Most of this work has occurred locally, at state/territory level.

In 2013, for the first time in Australia, AFAO mapped HIV health promotion work with African Australian communities at a national level. The mapping aimed to identify effective initiatives and share information about them both as a means of documenting the important work being undertaken with these communities, and as a resource that organisations could draw upon when developing new programs and resources.

This new mapping document builds on the original by including programs and resources developed for other CALD communities that experience challenges related to HIV. More than 70 projects are listed, dating from the late 1990s and covering a diverse range of communities and issues.

Comments on the first edition:

'It's a fantastic resource for research before starting a new project'

'I'd never thought of soccer as a way of engaging, but we're now doing our own tournament.'

'It will help people think a bit more outside the box, especially in ways that challenge the stigma of HIV.'

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

The following suggestions for using the resource are based on an evaluation of the 2013 mapping.

- Be informed about the 'big picture' of what's being done in this space around Australia
 - › Learn about existing programs, services and resources
 - › Ensure your program/resource is not unnecessarily duplicating other initiatives
 - › Identify gaps
- Get ideas
- Identify potential partners
- Use the links to download/order resources that may be useful for your service
- Use the evaluation details to inform your own planning for similar programs and resources
- Use for induction of new staff
- Find contacts and services (for example to refer clients who move interstate)
- Utilise as supporting evidence for advocacy and/or funding applications.

Programs and resources are listed by state/territory and then by the following colour-coded categories:

WHOLE COMMUNITY

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

WOMEN

MEN

YOUTH

SEX WORKERS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

FAITH LEADERS

SERVICE PROVIDERS

In the online version of this document, the Table of Contents is hyperlinked to each individual entry. You can also search (Control/Command F) to help you find content that's listed under a category that you don't expect (for example some 'Whole Community' programs include gay men and MSM or international students in a broader target group).

Some programs and resources are no longer current but are listed because they are unique, or were found to be very effective, and therefore may be of interest. You can request further information using the contact details supplied on their listing.

This mapping resource is available both in print and online at www.afao.org.au/library/ resources. It will be updated on a regular basis. Please contact AFAO if you wish to order a hard copy or contribute to a future edition.

Jill Sergeant

✉ jsergeant@afao.org.au

☎ 02 8568 1106

AFAO admin

✉ mail@afao.org.au

☎ 02 9557 9399

GLOSSARY

BBV	Blood borne viruses
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex
HARP	HIV/AIDS and Related Programs
LHD	Local Health District
MSM	Men who have sex with men
PLHIV	People living with HIV

ABOUT AFAO

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is the national federation for the HIV community response, providing leadership, coordination and support to Australia's policy, advocacy and health promotion response to HIV. AFAO also contributes to the development of effective policy and programmatic responses to HIV at the global level, particularly in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

AFAO's members are the AIDS councils in each state and territory, the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA), the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), the Anwernekenhe National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV/AIDS Alliance (ANA), and Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association.

AFAO'S CALD AND AFRICAN PROJECTS

AFAO's CALD project has developed from our African Project, which was initiated in 2009 in response to increasing rates of HIV diagnoses among people born in sub-Saharan Africa, and concerns from service providers that these communities had specific needs in relation to HIV. The African project activities are guided by an African Reference Group composed of community leaders and service providers from across Australia.

African Project activities have included nation-wide community consultations, discussion and briefing papers, a literature review, participation in the AIDS 2014 African Diaspora Networking Zone, two national forums, support for state-based African HIV networks, and a national African faith leaders meeting.

The CALD Project is in the early stages of development.

Current and planned activities 2014-2016:

- Mapping CALD HIV health promotion (this resource)
- Membership of the CoPAHM network (see p.16)
- Membership of the International Student Sexual Health Network (see p.16)
- Multicultural Reference Group to guide AFAO's work in this area
- National Multicultural Forum (2016).

More information about AFAO's CALD and African projects at: bit.ly/afao-cald-15



NATIONAL

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	ROLE	CONTACT
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS (AFAO)	AFAO is the national federation for the HIV community response. AFAO advocates for its member organisations, promotes medical and social research into HIV and its effects, develops national HIV health promotion campaigns and resources, and develops and formulates policy on HIV issues. AFAO also provides HIV policy advice to Commonwealth, state and territory governments.	☎ 02 9557 9399 ✉ afao@afao.org.au 🌐 afao.org.au
ANWERNEKENHE NATIONAL HIV ALLIANCE (ANA)	ANA is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based organisation that aims to improve the lives and protect the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by HIV.	☎ 1300 138 535 ✉ info@ana.org.au 🌐 ana.org.au
AUSTRALIAN INJECTING & ILLICIT DRUG USERS LEAGUE (AIVL)	AIVL is the national organisation representing people who use/have used illicit drugs and the peak body for the state and territory peer-based drug user organisations.	☎ 02 6279 1600 ✉ info@aivl.org.au 🌐 aivl.org.au
AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR HIV MEDICINE (ASHM)	ASHM is the peak organisation supporting health professionals in Australia and New Zealand who work in the fields of HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs.	☎ 02 8204 0700 ✉ ashm@ashm.org.au 🌐 www.ashm.org.au

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	ROLE	CONTACT
HIV/AIDS LEGAL CENTRE (HALC)	HALC is a not-for-profit, specialist community legal centre, and the only one of its kind in Australia. HALC lawyers tackle the severe stigma and discrimination that remains associated with HIV, and provide specialist support to deal with HIV-related legal issues. Although NSW-based, HALC at times provides advice and services at a national level.	☎ 02 9206 2060 ✉ halc@halc.org.au 🌐 halc.org.au
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH HIV AUSTRALIA (NAPWHA)	NAPWHA is Australia's peak non-government organisation representing community-based groups of people living with HIV (PLHIV). NAPWHA's membership of national networks and state-based organisations reflects the diverse make-up of the HIV-positive community and enables NAPWHA to confidently represent the positive voice in Australia.	☎ 02 8568 0300 / 1800 259 666 ✉ admin@napwha.org.au 🌐 napwha.org.au
SCARLET ALLIANCE, AUSTRALIAN SEX WORKERS ASSOCIATION	Scarlet Alliance works to achieve equality, social, legal, political, cultural and economic justice for past and present workers in the sex industry. Scarlet Alliance and its sex worker organisation membership have worked on cross-cultural, multilingual and trans-national project-based approaches to the health and human rights of migrant sex workers in Australia, in partnership with government.	☎ 02 9517 2577 ✉ info@scarletalliance.org.au 🌐 scarletalliance.org.au

RESEARCH CENTRES	ROLE	CONTACT
AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH CENTRE IN SEX, HEALTH AND SOCIETY (ARCSHS)	Based at La Trobe University, ARCSHS is a centre for social research into sexuality, health, and the social dimensions of human relationships. It works collaboratively and in partnership with communities, community-based organisations, government and professionals. The 'HIV and Mobility' project, based at ARCSHS, investigated the social, structural and community contexts for an increase in HIV diagnoses among people and their partners travelling to and from regions of high HIV prevalence.	☎ 03 9479 8700 ✉ arcschs@latrobe.edu.au 🌐 latrobe.edu.au/arcschs
BURNET INSTITUTE	The Burnet Institute aims to achieve better health for poor and vulnerable communities in Australia and internationally through research, education and public health initiatives, including BBV/STI surveillance and data analysis, and evaluation of health promotion activities.	☎ 03 9282 2111 ✉ info@burnet.edu.au 🌐 burnet.edu.au
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH IN HEALTH (CSRH)	CSRH is a research centre based at the University of NSW. CSRH focusses on HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs in the broader context of people's lives as these are shaped by social, cultural, economic and political dynamics. CSRH has specific research projects on CALD populations.	☎ 02 9385 6776 ✉ csr@unsw.edu.au 🌐 csr.arts.unsw.edu.au
KIRBY INSTITUTE FOR INFECTION AND IMMUNITY IN SOCIETY	The Kirby Institute is a research centre based at the University of NSW. Kirby's primary focus is the coordination of national HIV, BBV and STI surveillance programs, population health and epidemiological research, clinical research and clinical trials. Kirby produces an annual report on HIV, hepatitis and STI data.	☎ 02 9385 0900 ✉ recpt@nchechr.unsw.edu.au 🌐 kirby.unsw.edu.au

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Top Tips for Living Well with HIV

PRIORITY GROUPS

Arabic-speaking, Ethiopian, Thai, and Vietnamese communities

TYPE

Booklet and online resource

DURATION

Ongoing since 2011

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

AFAO has received consistent feedback from educators working in HIV positive education and from focus groups of people living with HIV (PLHIV) that long detailed resources regarding HIV treatments and complex health promotion strategies useful are not useful for everyone. This particularly applied to people who had been diagnosed for some time who needed to have new and different information highlighted rather than being provided with a lengthy updated resource.

A review of HIV positive health promotion workers conducted by the AFAO/NAPWHA Education Team identified the need for information resources that used different media, were shorter and more easily digestible, that highlighted what was important in terms of improving health, and where the consumer could easily identify new and changed information.

There are very few resources for people with HIV available in languages other than English. Top Tips was identified as a useful resource suited to translation.

AIMS

- Provide people with HIV from CALD backgrounds with accurate information about HIV management and treatment in their own language
- Assist service providers to better meet the needs of an increasingly diverse client base.

ACTIVITIES

The Top Tips resource for people living with HIV was developed in 2010–2011. It includes tips and information relevant to the lives and health of PLHIV, as well as contact information for relevant organisations.

The original booklet was written in plain English, which could be readily translated into community languages. In 2012 it was updated and published in plain English, Arabic, Amharic, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Hard copies available on request or online: bit.ly/toptips12

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Language groups were determined through consultation with AIDS councils and PLHIV organisations. Community involvement was only at the level of checking translations and this was done by the company responsible for providing the translated text.

FUNDED BY

Commonwealth Department of Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)

Ben Wilcock
 ☎ 02 8568 1151
 ✉ bwilcock@afao.org.au
 🌐 afao.org.au

NETWORKS	ROLE	CONTACT
AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE ON SEXUAL HEALTH	The Australian Multicultural Alliance on Sexual Health is made up of a group of like services and programs from across the country that work with communities from refugee and migrant backgrounds on sexual health and BBV/STI prevention issues. The Multicultural Health & Support Service (MHSS) convenes and provides secretariat support for the Alliance.	Alison Coelho ☎ 03 9418 9909 / 0409 166 870 ✉ alisonc@ceh.org.au
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR ACTION ON HIV AND MOBILITY (COPA HM)	CoPAHM is a cross-sector alliance of organisations, clinicians, community members and members of affected populations who have an interest in HIV and mobility issues and wish to remain connected or collaborate with others working, researching, or developing policy in this area.	Corie Gray ☎ 08 9266 7997 ✉ copahm@curtin.edu.au
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SEXUAL HEALTH NETWORK	The Network aims to improve the sexual health of international students in Australia. It is a voluntary collaboration of academics, community-based healthcare workers, health promotion and policy workers.	Georgia Babatsikos ☎ 03 9251 7119 ✉ georgia.babatsikos@deakin.edu.au

FAITH LEADERS

HIV & Stigma in Australia: A Guide for Religious Leaders

PRIORITY GROUP

Community leaders, especially religious leaders (of all faiths and denominations), from Australian communities affected by HIV

TYPE

Booklet

DURATION

2013 – 2016

AIM

- Decrease HIV stigma expressed within (faith based) community settings

OBJECTIVES

- Increase faith leaders' understanding of HIV in Australia, and sensitise them to the need for proactive engagement in reducing HIV-related stigma within their congregations and communities
- Address stereotypes about people living with HIV (PLHIV) and routes of HIV transmission in Australia
- Promote faith based settings as supportive environments for disclosure of HIV status
- Promote awareness of anti-discrimination legislation.

ACTIVITIES

This booklet is an adaptation of *What Religious Leaders can do about HIV/AIDS*, a 2003 resource produced by UNAIDS and UNICEF. Significant alterations have been made including

additional information to better describe the Australian context for action on HIV.

The booklet emphasises the role that religious leaders can play in reducing stigma. Some sections focus on people from CALD communities, recognising that faith is often important to these communities, and that CALD people with HIV may be disproportionately affected by stigma, both from within their communities and from the broader Australian community.

The booklet was distributed through a variety of networks and organisations providing services to people living with, and affected by, HIV, especially those from CALD communities.

Major distribution occurred at the 2014 International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, which was attended by Australian, regional and international HIV organisations, including religious organisations and community representatives.

RESOURCES

Copies of the booklet are available through PLHIV organisations and AIDS Councils and it can be downloaded from: bit.ly/faith-booklet.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

During its development, drafts of the resource were reviewed by African faith and community leaders connected with AFAO's African Reference Group.

PARTNERS

- Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health - Melbourne
- AFAO African Reference Group
- State and Territory AIDS Councils
- State and Territory PLHIV organisations
- National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWAH)

FUNDED BY

Commonwealth Department of Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)

Simon Donohoe
☎ 02 8568 1115
✉ sdonohoe@afao.org.au
🌐 afao.org.au

National meeting of African faith leaders

PRIORITY GROUP

African faith leaders and other religious leaders who work with African communities

TYPE

Capacity building event

DURATION

One day, July 2015

LOCATION

Sydney, but national focus

REASON FOR EVENT

AFAO's African community consultations, literature review and African Reference Group have all indicated that African Australian communities may be disproportionately affected by HIV-related stigma.

Faith plays an important role in African communities. Faith leaders are well placed to challenge stigma and to support people living with HIV, however more needs to be done to support and inform them about HIV.

More information on the AFAO website: bit.ly/af-pol

AIM

- Enhance awareness of HIV-related issues among religious leaders working with African communities and encourage their engagement in the Australian HIV response

- Support HIV and multicultural health services in their work with CALD communities, especially with faith leaders.

ACTIVITIES

A one day meeting was attended by around 35 faith leaders and African Reference Group members from around Australia. The program included presentations and discussion about key HIV-related issues and challenges for African communities in Australia and the role of faith leaders in supporting their communities and addressing HIV-related stigma.

Guest speakers included African people living with HIV and an African gay man. Their presentations focussed on their experiences of stigma and the significance of faith in their lives.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to:

- Network
- Share information and resources
- Strategise
- Consider next steps for supporting faith leaders to address HIV-related issues with their communities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Members of AFAO's African Reference Group and some faith leaders with experience in HIV were involved in planning the meeting and designing the program.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Evaluation will be completed by October 2015 and a report on the event will be available from AFAO on request.

FUNDED BY

Commonwealth Department of Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)

Linda Forbes
☎ 02 8568 1109
✉ lforbes@afao.org.au
🌐 (AFAO's African Project): bit.ly/af-pol

SEX WORKERS

Scarlet Alliance Migration Project

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD and migrant sex workers

TYPE

Peer support, education, advocacy, representation, capacity building, resource development and translation and interpreting support

DURATION

Began 2009, funded to June 2017

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Due to the underfunding of CALD peer education and a lack of translated resources there was a need to consolidate and strengthen the valuable resources that already existed within the sex worker community. There was also an identified need for a resource hub and central contact for materials, services and information for CALD and migrant sex workers.

With the emergence of the anti-trafficking movement, legislation and interventions, migrant sex workers faced substantial discrimination, stigma and targeting and subsequent barriers to migration and access to services.

The Migration Project's work is underpinned by an evidence and rights based approach that recognises the need for the people affected by trafficking legislation (migrant sex workers) to be central to development of the response. Migrant sex workers are the stakeholders most likely to be aware of gaps and the unintended consequences of anti-trafficking policies and interventions.

AIMS

- Provide support and services for migrant sex workers
- Shift government and anti-trafficking community understandings of the nature of the sex industry and migration
- Build capacity of peer educators in delivering services to migrant sex workers
- Ensure migrant sex worker representation on all issues and policies that affect migrant sex workers.

ACTIVITIES

The Migration Project is a project by and for migrant and CALD sex workers that provides culturally appropriate direct and indirect services to migrant sex workers, some of whom have travelled to Australia under contract or may have experienced trafficking-like conditions.

Activities include:

- Direct support to CALD sex workers through:
 - › Provision of translated information on visas, laws and rights and responsibilities for sex workers in Australia
 - › Direct multi lingual peer support on specific issues such as recovering unpaid wages, visas and legal issues and referrals
- Support and building the capacity of CALD peer educators in State and Territory sex worker organisations by:
 - › Translation checking and language support
 - › Training on anti-trafficking legislation and responses, and on migrant sex workers in Australia
 - › Partnership outreach
 - › Provision of resource and information hub

- Enhancing the capacity of Scarlet Alliance membership to understand and respond to migrant sex worker needs and issues
- Research to fill the evidence gap on migration and trafficking-like conditions in Australia
- Promotion of rights based anti-trafficking policy and practices that do not adversely affect the rights of migrant sex workers
- Partnerships with other sex worker organisations in Asia and the Pacific to increase provision of information and empower independent travel choices, for example:
 - › Formal partnership with Empower Chiang Mai, with employment of Migration Project staff in Thailand to provide information and support on laws, visas and migration rights and responsibilities to sex workers in Thailand who are thinking of travelling to Australia
- Advocacy for the removal of legal barriers to independent travel, migrant sex workers' access to justice, services and the prevention of exploitative workplace conditions through access to industrial rights for all sex workers, including through:
 - › Networking, consultation and advocacy with Australian government agencies and community organisations
 - › Participation on the National Roundtable on People Trafficking
 - › Submissions to government
- Presentations, community education and training to increase understanding of the issues that affect migrant sex workers including the impact of:
 - › Labour migration laws and Australia's response to trafficking
 - › Stigma and systemic and institutionalised discrimination
- Responding to negative media around migrant sex workers and inaccurate reporting on people trafficking issues.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project is staffed by and for migrant and CALD sex workers. To ensure the project is truly representative and continues to meet the actual needs of migrant sex workers, a migrant sex worker steering committee was established and continues to meet regularly.

The committee is comprised of sex workers from Chinese, Korean and Thai-language backgrounds, CALD peer educators from state and territory sex worker organisations and sex worker representatives from Empower Foundation.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

External evaluators have been engaged since the project's inception to provide independent monitoring and review. Evaluation addresses project management, achievement of milestones and objectives, project impacts and performance against the key performance indicators.

The evaluation report for 2009-2014 stated:

'As shown through qualitative and quantitative measures over time, it is clear that the project has achieved significant success in:

- Providing translated information on visas, laws and rights and responsibilities for sex workers in Australia
- Training service providers in the field to increase knowledge, improve attitudes and promote best practice on issues related to migrant sex workers and trafficking
- Developing innovative peer support and referral services to migrant sex workers
- Building the research base on migration and trafficking-like conditions in Australia
- Contributing to the development of anti-trafficking policy and practices
- Partnering with other peer-based organisations in Asia and the Pacific to increase provision of information on rights and responsibilities
- Delivering community education sessions and agency presentations on labour migration and Australia's response to trafficking
- Ensuring sound program governance.'

PARTNERS

- Respect Inc, QLD
- SIN SA
- SWOP NSW
- SWOP ACT
- SWOP NT
- Scarlet Alliance Tasmania
- Vixen, VIC
- Empower Foundation Thailand
- Associate Members Magenta and RhED

FUNDED BY

Commonwealth Government represented by
Attorney-General's Department


CONTACT DETAILS

Scarlet Alliance,
Australian Sex Workers Association

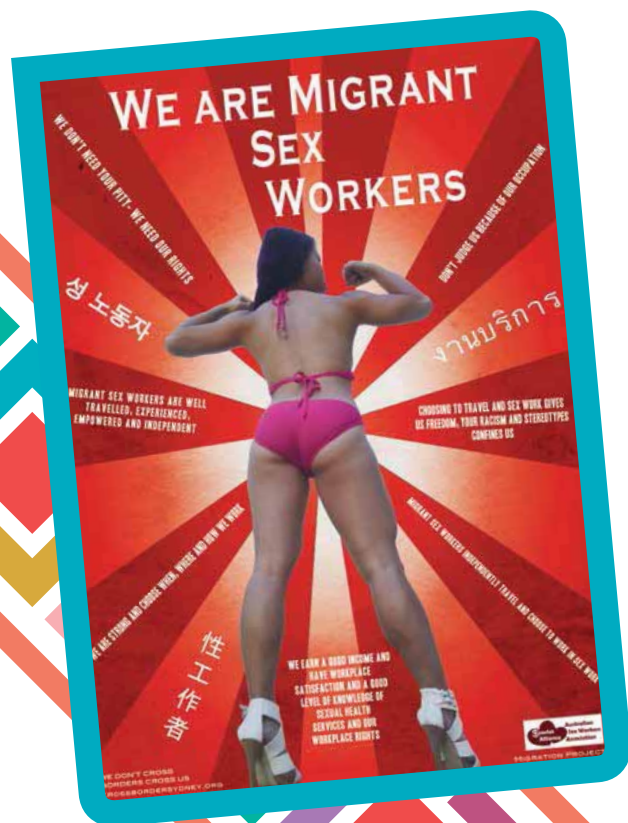
Jules Kim, Migration Project Manager

☎ 02 9517 2577

✉ mpm@scarletalliance.org.au

 scarletalliance.org.au/chinese

scarletalliance.org.au/korean
scarletalliance.org.au/thai



SERVICE PROVIDERS

Blood-Borne Viruses: A Resource for Professional Interpreters and Translators

PRIORITY GROUP

Professional interpreters and translators who are accredited by and registered with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)

TYPE

Professional development

LOCATION

Resource is available free of charge
across Australia

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

A needs analysis among professional interpreters and translators showed there was an interest in and a need for a resource targeted at this professional group.

Accessing appropriate healthcare in Australia can be more difficult for migrants and refugees due to language, culture and health literacy problems. With greater migration of people from countries with high or higher prevalence of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV, there is an increased need for interpreters and translators to have a better understanding of BBVs, both linguistically and culturally.

AIM

- Give professional interpreters and translators working in a range of healthcare settings a general understanding of BBVs, including the differences and similarities, risk of infection, transmission routes and specific information about each virus.

RESOURCES

12 page booklet available at:
ashm.org.au/resources/Pages/1976963414.aspx

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The resource was instigated by the needs analysis and developed with the help of a reference group of 15 volunteer interpreters and translators from a wide range of language backgrounds. Professional organisations were also involved and consulted on the content.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The response from the interpreting and translation sector has been very positive. For those involved in the development of the booklet, it was an opportunity to separate facts from myths about BBVs and this proved to be a positive experience for all.

ENDORISING ORGANISATIONS

- The Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT)
- Western Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (WAITI), Inc

FUNDED BY

Commonwealth Department of Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)

Karen Seager

☎ 02 8204 0761

✉ Karen.seager@ashm.org.au

 ashm.org.au



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
AIDS ACTION COUNCIL OF THE ACT	The AIDS Action Council provides services to the ACT community, aimed at eliminating further transmission of HIV and minimising the personal and social impacts of HIV.	☎ 02 6257 2855 ✉ contact@aidsaction.org.au 🌐 aidsaction.org.au
COMPANION HOUSE	Companion House works with people who have sought refuge in Australia from persecution, torture and war-related trauma. The organisation works with people who are newly arrived and longer term settlers.	☎ 02 6251 4550 ✉ info@companionhouse.org.au 🌐 companionhouse.org.au
MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SETTLEMENT SERVICES (MARSS)	MARSS provides settlement and related services for migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants in the ACT and region, including language, welfare, employment, and access and equity programs.	☎ 02 6248 8577 ✉ marss@marss.org.au 🌐 marss.org.au
MULTICULTURAL YOUTH SERVICES (MYS)	MYS is an outreach and drop in service assisting young people aged 12 to 25 years from migrant and refugee backgrounds to overcome barriers to obtaining work, accommodation, education and training. MYS provides sexual health information in their programs for young women.	☎ 02 6100 4611 ✉ info@mys.org.au 🌐 mys.org.au

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Migration Legal Clinic

PRIORITY GROUP/S

Anyone requiring migration legal assistance

TYPE

Legal Clinic

DURATION

Clinics are held every two weeks. The project was established in 2010.

LOCATION

Canberra

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

A person who is marginalised for any reason is at greater risk of a range of negative outcomes, and people from migrant communities are frequently in this category. We provide this service as part of our commitment to all communities that face barriers to access to services, supports and opportunities.

HIV is a barrier to migration because many people with HIV are initially denied a permanent residence visa. The Clinic was established to help applicants with the process of challenging this decision.

AIM

- Provision of migration legal services and access to the services of the AIDS Action Council of the ACT.

ACTIVITIES

The Clinic provides a confidential service for people experiencing issues with visas or other migration matters. It is predominantly an assessment and referral service offering a one-off, free 60 minute consultation.

There is some capacity for case work; however the primary aim is to provide initial strategic advice and refer to appropriate services as applicable.

The clinic is delivered in partnership with registered migration agents volunteering through the Australian National University (ANU) Migration Law Program.

The program runs through AIDS Action's Client Services program, but it is open to the general public by appointment.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

This has been a very successful program, with a long waiting list. The program has provided connections to a number of people living with HIV. As a result, the Council is able to provide information and support to people who might not have otherwise engaged with their services

This project is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ANU that is reviewed every couple of years.

PARTNERS

- Australian National University Migration Law Program

FUNDED BY

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

CONTACT DETAILS

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

Marcus Bogie

☎ 02 6257 2855

✉ contact@aidsaction.org.au

🌐 aidsaction.org.au/migration-clinics

YOUTH

Sex Education

PRIORITY GROUP

Recently arrived migrant and refugee background young people (high school age students)

TYPE

Sex education (including sexual health and HIV prevention)

DURATION

Four times a year

LOCATION

Canberra

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The need was identified through discussion and referral from Dickson Secondary Introductory English Centre (SIEC) and Companion House Medical Service.

AIM

- Health promotion with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

ACTIVITIES

Information sessions consisting of two x 1 hour classes (separate boys and girls classes) at the end of school term for students exiting SIEC

PARTNERS

- Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (resources)

FUNDED BY

Not funded

CONTACT DETAILS:

Companion House

☎ 02 6251 4550

✉ info@companionhouse.org.au

🌐 companionhouse.org.au

SEX WORKERS

SWOP ACT CALD Sex Worker Outreach Project

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD sex workers in the ACT

TYPE

CALD sex worker outreach

DURATION

SWOP has been operating the CALD project for more than 8 years

LOCATION

ACT brothels

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The majority of brothels in the ACT are now CALD brothels. Most CALD sex workers in the ACT are Thai, Chinese and Korean. There are also sometimes Vietnamese workers. The majority of these workers will identify as female, but some are occasionally male or transgender women, who may call themselves lady boys.

Conducting outreach to gain the trust of the sex workers enables SWOP ACT to provide resources, and information so that they are aware of SWOP ACT's services, their rights as workers and how to look after their health.

AIM

- To maximise the health outcomes of CALD sex workers in the ACT through the provision of culturally relevant resources.

ACTIVITIES

CALD Outreach

None of the current SWOP ACT staff speaks any of the primary languages of the CALD sex workers. At least twice a year two representatives from Scarlet Alliance come down to speak directly with the CALD workers in ACT brothels in Korean, Chinese and Thai. This helps develop connection and trust and helps support SWOP ACT staff's engagement with workers who are not confident in English.

Translated resources

Providing translated resources helps to ensure that those who do not speak English have access to the same important information as those who do.

SWOP ACT's translated resources in the primary languages include information about oral sex, and about SWOP ACT and Scarlet Alliance. Scarlet Alliance resources on the laws related to sex work around Australia, visas, and workers' rights & responsibilities are also made available to the workers.

Recognition of significant days

SWOP often marks significant cultural days, such as Songkran and Chinese New Year, in the workers' local calendars. Marking these days helps demonstrate SWOP ACT is interested in the workers' culture, not just in their lives as sex workers.

RESOURCES

Translated resources are produced with SBS translation services and Scarlet Alliance. Resources are available from the AIDS Action Council, at relevant brothels in their 'Girls Room' and the latest updates will be online soon at: aidsaction.org.au/swop.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

There was a noticeable lack of interaction from CALD workers during initial outreach. Some workers requested resources in their own languages. SWOP ACT responded to these requests.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The CALD Outreach Project and provision of culturally appropriate resources has meant that more sex workers are engaging with the SWOP outreach workers. This has been seen in the increased length of time that the outreach workers spend engaging with the workers in the CALD brothels.

Marking significant holidays for the workers has also helped to break down barriers because they recognise that there is genuine appreciation for the considerations of their local holidays or celebrations. This is a newer initiative that we have not yet had the opportunity to evaluate, but it appears to be changing the engagement with the workers in a positive direction.

PARTNERS

- Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association

FUNDED BY

ACT Health

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

CONTACT DETAILS

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

Lexxie Jury, SWOP Outreach Worker

📞 02 6257 2855

✉ swop@aidsaction.org.au

🌐 aidsaction.org.au/swop

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students Sexual Health Education

PRIORITY GROUP

Recently arrived international students
(high school age)

TYPE

Sexual health education including on puberty, reproduction, consent, STIs and HIV, as well as where to access support

DURATION

Ongoing since 2012

LOCATION

Canberra

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

This is part of the orientation process for international students. The program has been running for many years and the AIDS Action Council is invited to participate every year by Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT).

AIM

- Provision of appropriate sexual health information, including support services, for high school and college-aged students newly arrived in the ACT

ACTIVITIES

The Council provides information to male international students, via 1.5 hour education sessions, about sexual development and sexual health, including on HIV, STIs, consent and how to use condoms. These sessions are conducted two to three times per year depending on student intakes.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The program evolves through feedback from the teachers about emerging issues, including the nature of questions students have asked during the course delivery.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The program continues to evolve every time it is run. It is reviewed every 12 months and altered to meet the needs of the students. Feedback from the students, teachers and facilitators is considered in the development and review of the program.

PARTNERS

- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
- ACT Education and Training Directorate

FUNDED BY

ACT Health

CONTACT DETAILS

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

Keiran Rossteuscher,
Senior Community Education Coordinator

☎ 02 6257 2855

✉ keiran@aidsaction.org.au

🌐 aidsaction.org.au



Photo: Renae Petropoulos

NEW
SOUTH
WALES



SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
ACON	ACON is a non-government organisation providing services to gay & lesbian communities, including HIV information, prevention and support.	☎ 02 9206 2000 / 1800 063 060 ✉ acon@acon.org.au 🌐 acon.org.au Check the website for contact details of regional branches.
MULTICULTURAL HIV & HEPATITIS SERVICE (MHAHS), NSW	MHAHS works to address HIV and hepatitis B & C among CALD communities in NSW. MHAHS provides information and support to people living with HIV and/or HCV and works with CALD communities and HIV/hepatitis agencies to address the needs of CALD communities.	☎ 02 9515 1234 ✉ info@mhahs.org.au 🌐 mhahs.org.au
POSITIVE LIFE	Positive Life NSW is the voice of people with HIV in NSW, providing information, advice and advocacy for people living with HIV.	☎ 02 9206 2177 / 1800 245 677 ✉ contact@positivelife.org.au 🌐 positivelife.org.au
POZHET (HETEROSEXUAL HIV SERVICE)	Pozhet provides information, education and support to heterosexual men and women living with HIV and their partners throughout NSW. It has an HIV information and support line, co-ordinates events and develops health promotion resources.	Susan McGuckin ☎ 02 9395 0438 ✉ pozhet@pozhet.org.au 🌐 pozhet.org.au

WHOLE COMMUNITY

African Community Development Project

PRIORITY GROUP

All Africans with emphasis on the Zimbabwean community

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

2010-2013 (one-off; however MHAHS has continued to support some elements of the original program)

LOCATION

State-wide

AIMS

- Increase African communities' capacity to deal with HIV/AIDS issues
- Increase HIV awareness and knowledge, testing and prevention
- Increase community access to HIV services
- Reduce stigma and discrimination.

ACTIVITIES

- Delivered HIV/AIDS workshops to community workers and leaders
- Delivered HIV/AIDS workshops to community members in partnership with community organisations such as Migrant Resource Centres, the Edmund Rice Centre and African organisations representing various communities and groups including the Ghanaian and Ethiopian communities, Zimbabwean men, church groups and soccer teams

- Engaged an HIV-positive person of African background to talk about her personal experience of living with HIV to different community groups and during key community gatherings such as the annual African Women's Dinner Dance, two major African church gatherings and at a Zimbabwean community fundraising dinner
- Distributed safe sex packs and HIV information during the African soccer tournaments (see listing p. 46)
- Participated in African community festivals such as the Africultures Festival (around 5,000 community members attended in 2012, and between 7,000 and 9,000 attended in 2013)
- Developed African wall calendars in 2012 and 2013 with African themes, photos of local African people and HIV messages. 6,000 calendars were distributed each year to African communities via partner organisations and during community festivals and events.

This program built on an earlier initiative, the Late HIV Presentation Project (African communities component), which was conducted in 2002-2003 and aimed to increase HIV awareness, testing and access to services. Activities included a workshop, multilingual poster, and a one day soccer tournament for young people.

RESOURCES

African wall calendars (see listing overleaf)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the program MHAHS held community consultations. These were followed by the establishment of an African Communities Advisory Group which guides the program's activities.

The calendars were developed in partnership with African community organisations.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Two program elements were evaluated and found to be very effective: the 2012 African HIV Calendar and the HIV-positive speaker program. As a result, MHAHS has continued to produce a new calendar each year (see listing below). MHAHS has also continued supporting the African Women's Dinner Dance and the annual Africultures Festival.

PARTNERS

- Auburn Diversity Services
- SydWest Multicultural Services Inc.
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Wa'el Sabri
☎ 02 9515 1234
✉ sabriw@email.cs.nsw.gov.au
🌐 mhahs.org.au

African HIV Calendar

PRIORITY GROUP

African communities

TYPE

Resource

DURATION

Produced annually since 2012

AIM

- Increase HIV awareness, testing and access to services among African communities in NSW.

ACTIVITIES

- Engagement of a professional photographer of African background to capture images of different community members to be featured on the calendar
- Photo shoot at the Africultures festival at Auburn; in 2015 the festival attracted up to 12,000 visitors
- Production and distribution of 6,000 calendars to African community members across NSW.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A Community Advisory Group was established to guide the development and distribution of the calendars.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

- Engagement of African community members and organisations was vital to the success of the resource
- Strong input from the Community Advisory Group was a major factor contributing to success
- Including photos of local African community members has given the communities a sense of ownership of the resource.

PARTNERS

- Auburn Diversity Services
- SydWest Multicultural Services Inc.
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)

FUNDED BY

NSW Ministry of Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Wa'el Sabri
☎ 02 9515 1234
✉ sabriw@sswahs.nsw.gov.au
🌐 mhahs.org.au

Cambodian HIV/AIDS Community Development Project

PRIORITY GROUP

Cambodian community in NSW

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

2008-2009 (one-off program)

LOCATION

State-wide

AIMS

- Increase HIV awareness and knowledge among the Cambodian community
- Increase access to HIV services
- Decrease discrimination towards people living with HIV
- Increase the Cambodian community's capacity to address HIV.

ACTIVITIES

Community workshops

The project delivered 17 workshops and information sessions to a range of community groups, reaching more than 200 participants including men, women and young people.

Soccer Tournament

During World AIDS Day 2008, and in partnership with local Cambodian soccer teams and the Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council of NSW, the project promoted HIV issues and distributed safe sex packs and HIV/AIDS information during the tournament.

Media

Four programs highlighting HIV/AIDS issues were broadcast on the Cambodian SBS Radio program.

Festivals

The Project participated in the two main

Cambodian festivals, (Cambodian New Year and the Moon festivals), where HIV/AIDS information and safe sex packs were distributed to community members.

HIV/AIDS DVD: 'Voice of Khmer'

To facilitate debate and break taboos regarding HIV, the 'Voice of Khmer' DVD was developed in partnership with the Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council. The DVD was shot by a group of young Cambodians in various locations in Sydney.

It included interviews with community members about their views on HIV and with HIV specialists. A community HIV forum was taped. The forum, held in the grounds of a community Buddhist temple, included Buddhist monks debating HIV issues with community members.

In November 2009, the DVD was launched and blessed by Cambodian monks at an event which concluded with Cambodian folk songs and dance. The launch was also featured on Cambodian SBS Radio.

RESOURCES

HIV/AIDS DVD 'Voice of Khmer' in Khmer with English subtitles.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project consulted widely with community leaders, religious leaders and community workers. A Community Advisory Group was established to guide the overall implementation of project strategies.

PARTNERS

- Cambodian Australian Welfare Council of NSW

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Wa'el Sabri
☎ 02 9515 1234
✉ sabriw@sswahs.nsw.gov.au
🌐 mhahs.org.au

Chinese Community Development Project

PRIORITY GROUP

Chinese speaking community, including gay men and MSM

TYPE

Community program, (one-off)

DURATION

2013 - 2014

LOCATION

State-wide

AIMS

- Increase awareness of HIV
- Increase access to HIV health services
- Decrease stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV.

ACTIVITIES

Information sessions

Five information sessions were delivered in language to Chinese community groups, reaching a total of 190 participants.

Media work

The project engaged TVB, the largest Chinese TV television platform in Australia, to promote HIV awareness. A 12 minute segment about HIV was screened as part of a regular series, 'People's Forum', which features topical issues. This was broadcast to over 20,000 households and commercial outlets, reaching an estimated 130,000 viewers.

The project also worked with a Chinese radio station, Australia Oriental Radio 20R. In a 30-minute interview, the Project Officer and a MHAHS bilingual-bicultural co-worker outlined the MHAHS services, challenged common myths, and discussed basic information about HIV.

Community engagement

A key focus of the project's capacity engagement strategy was to support and encourage community-led HIV-health initiatives. We facilitated the inception of a community group to support gay Asian men, the Asian Gay Collective

Educational events

In order to reach gay Asian students, we collaborated with the University of Technology Sydney's Queer Society group, Out 2 Party, to host two movie screenings – each preceded by a short talk on HIV. Attendees also received a show bag containing HIV information, safe sex packs, snacks and drinks.

Presence at community events

Having a presence at community events such as the Chinese New Year festival enabled the project to reach a large number of community members. Given that people attend these events to socialise and enjoy themselves, it was important to take a subtle approach to delivering information about HIV. Fortune cookies with HIV messages in Chinese were distributed along with HIV brochures.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project consulted widely with community leaders and workers to secure their support

and endorsement. A Community Advisory Group was established to guide the overall implementation of the project and to ensure the cultural appropriateness of project's activities.

PARTNERS

- Chinese Australian Services Society (CASS)
- Chinese Youth league of Australia (CYL)
- Uniting Care
- Harris Community Centre
- TVB television.

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Solomon Wong
☎ 02 9515 1234
✉ Solomon.Wong@sswahs.nsw.gov.au
🌐 mhahs.org.au



Thai Community Development Project

PRIORITY GROUP

Thai community

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

2009 - 2010 (one-off program)

LOCATION

State-wide

AIMS

- Increase awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- Increase access to HIV services
- Decrease discrimination against people living with HIV.

ACTIVITIES

Workforce Development

The project organised a half day workshop for community leaders, workers and volunteers with a welcome speech by the Royal Thai Consul General, in Sydney.

Community workshops

The project delivered seven workshops to different community groups across the Sydney metropolitan area. The Project Officer accessed community groups via a range of community structures and networks such as Thai Mothers group, Thai Women's group and Sunday Thai School.

Working with local Thai media

The project worked closely with SBS Thai Radio and Radio Thailand, Thai-Oz News and the Thai Media magazine. Three radio programs were broadcast and two articles were published.

Safe Sex packs

The project designed and distributed safe sex packs including safe sex messages in Thai. The packs were distributed to community members at relevant venues and community gatherings.

Community Festivals

The project participated in the Water Festival at Parramatta Park, the Thai New Year Festival at Darling Harbour, and at the Buddharangsri Forestry Temple in Leumeah. Over 1,000 fortune cookies carrying HIV messages in Thai were distributed along with HIV information and safe sex packs.

HIV Desk Calendars

To consolidate the project's activities, 4,000 HIV/AIDS 2011 desk calendars carrying images of the local community and HIV messages in Thai were produced and distributed.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project consulted widely with community leaders and stakeholders such as the Thai Welfare Association, the Buddharangsee Thai Community Language School and the Buddharangsee Temple in Stanmore, Sydney. A Community Advisory Group was established to guide and assist project development.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Community workshops evaluated positively and the desk calendars were focused tested with positive outcomes.

PARTNERS

- Thai Welfare Association

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Wa'el Sabri

☎ 02 9515 1234

✉ sabriw@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

🌐 mhahs.org.au



PEOPLE WITH HIV

7 Good Reasons to Start HIV Treatment Now

PRIORITY GROUP

People living with HIV who have not yet started antiretroviral treatment

TYPE

An online resource using a combination of images and text

DURATION

2015-2016 (one-off)

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

The resource has been developed for people with low levels of literacy. People with low literacy have difficulty reading text and, sometimes, understanding verbal information. These difficulties increase when a person is under stress, such as when they are diagnosed with HIV. The use of industry jargon also makes it difficult for people with low literacy to understand HIV treatment information. The new resource, using a combination of images and text, aims to address these challenges.

AIMS

- Increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of HIV treatment
- Promote uptake of/and access to HIV treatment.

ACTIVITIES

The resource is in production (as of August 2015). It will be available online in English and priority languages.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

People living with HIV from CALD backgrounds and those with low literacy were involved in focus testing the resource.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Early feedback from focus testing suggests the resource will meet its aims.

PARTNERS

- Positive Life NSW

FUNDED BY

Positive Life NSW

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Sonam Paljor

☎ 02 9515 1234

✉ sonam.paljor@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

🌐 mhahs.org.au

African HIV-Positive Women's Group

PRIORITY GROUP

African HIV-positive women

TYPE

Education sessions and social support group

DURATION

2009 – 2014

LOCATION

Western Sydney

AIMS

The aims and objectives were formulated in accordance with the NSW HIV/AIDS Strategy:

- Meet the needs of African women coping with their HIV diagnosis
- Provide advice, guidance, teaching and information sharing about living positively with HIV
- Facilitate opportunities for sharing experiences of living with HIV and offer peer support
- Provide information about HIV-positive support services available in Sydney.

ACTIVITIES

The group met monthly on a weekday, then on weekends four times a year, so that African HIV-positive men and family members could join the group after an education session with the women.

A program of guest speakers was developed in consultation with the women.

Topics covered included:

- Living with HIV – an overview of what it means to live positively with HIV in Australia
- Antiretroviral medications and the new approach to HIV
- Pregnancy and HIV
- Disclosure
- Stigma and discrimination
- HIV services
- Refugee health – services offered
- Immigration issues
- Women's health issues.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Due to differing levels of written language skills in the group, evaluation occurred through regular facilitated discussions. Since the group began in 2009 the women have gained:

- More understanding of the effectiveness of HIV treatment and care in Australia

- A sense of belonging, feeling less stigmatised and more comfortable talking about their HIV status and sharing their experiences

- A better understanding of how to engage with Australian support services.

The women are now meeting socially outside the group. They have commented that:

'The information and education sessions from various organisations have been very helpful.'

'I have learnt through talking to the group members that I am not alone; this has helped me gain my inner strength.'

'What I like most about the support group is that everybody is very friendly and supportive and I feel confident that should I be sick one day, someone will be there with me to hold my hand.'

The project was replaced in 2014 with the Pozhet Western Sydney HIV Program.

PARTNERS

- HIV/AIDS and Related Programs (HARP) Unit, Nepean Blue Mountains and Western Sydney Local Health Districts
- Pozhet (Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Service)
- The Sisters of Mercy at Mamre House.

FUNDED BY

A pharmaceutical company

CONTACT DETAILS

HIV/AIDS and Related Programs (HARP) Unit, Nepean Blue Mountains and Western Sydney Local Health Districts

Michael Orchard

☎ 02 4734 3984

✉ Michael.Orchard@health.nsw.gov.au

Pozhet

Susan McGuckin

☎ 02 9305 0444

✉ pozhet@pozhet.org.au

🌐 pozhet.org.au

Pozhet Western Sydney HIV Program

PRIORITY GROUP

Heterosexual people from CALD communities who are living with HIV in Western and South Western Sydney and their partners

These groups are targeted but the event is inclusive and all people living with HIV and their partners are welcome

TYPE

Educational and social connection groups

DURATION

Ongoing since January 2015

LOCATION

Western and South Western Sydney

REASONS FOR THE PROGRAM

In 2014 participants in the African Women's Group (see previous listing) and a group of African men who had been invited to some of the meetings decided that they would like to broaden the group to involve more people from Western and South Western Sydney.

There were obvious gaps in support services for people living with HIV in Western and South Western Sydney.

In 2013 Health Protection NSW presented data at a CALD Roundtable which showed that:

- Western Sydney area has the highest rate in NSW of heterosexual people diagnosed with HIV born in Sub Saharan Africa
- South West Sydney has the highest rate in NSW of heterosexual people born in South East Asia (who also had high rates of late diagnosis)
- Sexual Health Clinics play a key role in diagnosing HIV amongst those born overseas.

Data available on request.

AIMS

- Improve links to services and resources for the target group
- Improve knowledge about living well with HIV
- Improve social connectedness of people living with HIV who may be socially isolated.

ACTIVITIES

Activities include at least three groups a year, of which at least one is for women. These groups include a speaker on relevant topics such as treatments, legal issues, and disclosure.

People are able to access the larger services at the Western Suburbs Haven and lunch is provided.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The group formed as a result of suggestions by participants in the African Women's Group that they would like to widen the group to more communities in the West of Sydney, and participants suggest topics for speakers and group meetings.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Two sessions have been held in 2015.

The first was on treatment and attracted 24 people. About 30% were from African communities and over 60% were from other CALD communities, including South East Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Participants stated that they liked being able to learn new things, ask questions, and meet other people all in the one afternoon. They also appreciated listening to an HIV-positive person speak about treatments as well as the relaxed atmosphere and open discussion.

The HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) spoke about legal issues at the second session.

We need to ensure that the original African communities stay involved in all aspects of the program.

We are adding South West Sydney HARP Unit to our partnership to help facilitate engagement with South East Asian communities living in the region. Involving local CALD communities in a working group will be a priority in the future.

PARTNERS

- Pozhet (Heterosexual HIV Service)
- HIV/AIDS and Related Programs (HARP) Unit, Nepean and Blue Mountains Local Health District (LHD)
- HARP Unit, Western Sydney LHD
- Western Suburbs Haven

FUNDED BY

NEPEAN and Blue Mountains HARP Unit and Pozhet (Sydney Local Health District)

CONTACT DETAILS

Pozhet (Heterosexual HIV Service)

Susan McGuckin

☎ 02 9395 0444

✉ pozhet@pozhet.org.au

🌐 pozhet.org.au

Women and HIV Factsheets

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD women living with HIV

TYPE

Factsheets

DURATION

October 2009 – March 2010

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

The Women and HIV factsheets were originally written in 1997. In 2002 Number 4 (Treatments) was reviewed and three new factsheets were developed. The factsheets were translated into six priority languages.

This project addressed the needs of HIV-positive women from CALD backgrounds, one of the priority populations listed on the NSW HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006-2009. It also reflected the Strategy's priorities for treatment, care and support.

In 2007, 60% of the female HIV notifications in NSW were CALD women (Source: 2007 Annual Surveillance Report - bit.ly/asr07).

Consultation with NSW Health, the HIV and CALD Interagency of which Family Planning NSW is an active member, and health and support workers, resulted in a consensus that the factsheets were useful and should be reviewed and updated.

AIM

- Increase access to HIV information for women from CALD communities and the service providers who work with them.

ACTIVITIES

- Consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Reviewing and updating six factsheets on issues relevant to HIV-positive women and women at risk of HIV infection
- Translation of factsheets into Khmer, Swahili, Thai and Vietnamese
- Promoting the factsheets to service providers who were in contact with HIV-positive women and women at risk of HIV.
- The topics, decided in consultation with a range of stakeholders were:
 - › Testing for HIV
 - › Recently Diagnosed
 - › Health Maintenance (Looking after yourself)
 - › Treatments: The basics
 - › Pregnancy (Pregnancy and me)
 - › NSW Services and Websites.

RESOURCES

Factsheets available at:
fpnsw.org.au/625547_8.html

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Two focus groups were conducted with HIV-positive women to help determine appropriate content and design for the factsheets. One was with women who regularly attend events at the Positive Living Centre (PLC) and the other was with a group of women from the NAPWA (National Association of People with HIV Australia) Women's Network. Around half of the women involved had a country of birth other than Australia.

A third attempt was made to focus test the factsheets with a group of HIV-positive African women, but the logistics and timeline made this impossible.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Partnership Evaluation was completed, Outcome Evaluation not completed.

We found that engaging HIV-positive women in the project was a challenge. A clear incentive and outline of what is expected needs to be offered from the outset. It is probably best to approach three or four women from different services.

The approval processes were different for each of the organisations involved. It is worth exploring the possibility of streamlining the process, perhaps following the protocols of the leading agency.

PARTNERS

- Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)
- Pozhet (Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Service)
- ACON Women and Families Affected by HIV Project (no longer running)

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

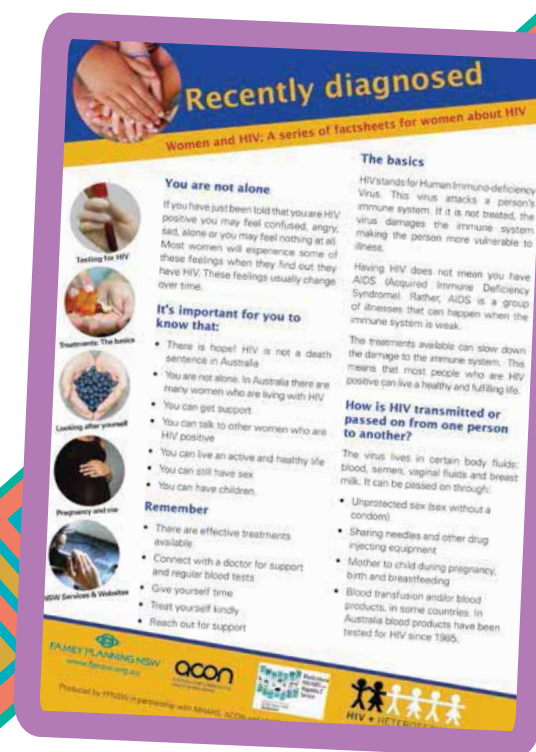
Family Planning NSW

Katherine Bennett

☎ 02 4749 0504

✉ katherineb@fpnsw.org.au

🌐 fpnsw.org.au



WOMEN

CALD women and HIV project

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD women, particularly those of African and Asian backgrounds

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

2005–2006 (one-off)

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR THE PROJECT

The project was established to respond to the increasing number of HIV notifications among CALD women from 2000 to 2004, many of whom were diagnosed at antenatal services.

AIMS

The project was designed to:

- Increase HIV awareness and knowledge
- Encourage testing
- Reduce stigma.

ACTIVITIES

The project aimed to build upon previous interventions with target CALD groups, including African communities. This project was important because it was the first in NSW to focus exclusively on CALD women's health literacy and information needs regarding HIV.

Key activities included:

- HIV/AIDS workshops for community workers and women's groups
- The redevelopment of the resource *I am pregnant. Do I need a HIV test?* in Arabic, Dinka, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese and plain English
- Marketing and distribution of the resource primarily through ethnic media and the mail out of an order form
- Community development activities culminating in cultural competency workshops for staff at six antenatal services across Sydney metropolitan area and HIV workshops for women's groups from the target communities. The project also organised an African Women's Health Festival in December 2006 that highlighted HIV issues.



RESOURCES

Hard copies of print resource and CDs *I am pregnant do I need a HIV Test?* available on request.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Community consultations and an Advisory Group guided the project.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The program was externally evaluated. Overall, the findings were positive and indicated a significant impact on the target groups.

Recommendations for future work were to extend and consolidate work with women from African backgrounds and continue distributing the resource.

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Wa'el Sabri

☎ 02 9515 1234

✉ sabriw@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

🌐 mhahs.org.au



MEN

African-Australian soccer tournament

PRIORITY GROUP

African men (especially soccer players and spectators at soccer tournaments)

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

2004 -2009

LOCATION

NSW state-wide

AIM

- Increase HIV awareness, testing and access to services.

ACTIVITIES

A partnership was formed with the African Australian Youth Social Club to promote HIV/AIDS awareness through their annual soccer tournament. Activities included:

- Delivery of HIV/AIDS workshops to soccer teams
- Distribution of safe sex packs and HIV information to spectators
- Development and distribution of African soccer wall calendars with HIV prevention messages for the years 2006–2009.

RESOURCES

Wall calendars - hard copies available on request.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Following community consultations an African Communities Advisory Group was established to guide the program.

PARTNERS

- African Australian Youth Social Club

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)

Wa'el Sabri

☎ 02 9515 1234

✉ sabriw@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

🌐 mhahs.org.au

Asian Gay Men's Peer Education Groups

PRIORITY GROUP

Asian gay and bisexual men

TYPE

Peer education groups

DURATION

Ongoing since 1990

LOCATION

Sydney

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Aside from commercial gay venues and social networking apps, there are limited community spaces for Asian gay men to connect with each other and discuss the issues impacting their lives. ACON's peer education groups are designed to fill this gap.

AIMS

- Facilitate peer support and social connectedness
- Create an avenue for HIV/STI health promotion and campaign messages to be promoted
- Create safe spaces that encourage the discussion of issues pertinent to the lived experiences of Asian gay men.

ACTIVITIES

Asian Tea Room

- A facilitated discussion and social group that occurs monthly, no cost and open to drop-ins
- A discussion topic is usually chosen by the group facilitators beforehand, with a focus on sexual health, sexuality, mental wellbeing and socio-cultural issues impacting Asian gay men.

ConversAsians

- A six week, one evening per week workshop with participants enrolled via an intake process which requires them to commit to the full workshop series and a closed group structure
- Participants explore themes of coming out, sexuality, sexual health and socio-cultural issues impacting Asian gay men.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The facilitators are recruited from the community. Training, ongoing feedback and supervision are provided by the Project Officer. Participants provide feedback on design and delivery of the discussion themes and activities.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The programs evaluated strongly with 80% satisfaction rate. 100% of participants said they would refer their friends to the groups.

FUNDED BY

ACON

CONTACT DETAILS

ACON Health

Min Fuh Teh

✉ mteha@acon.org.au, asia@acon.org.au

🌐 acon.org.au

Asian Project Internship Program

PRIORITY GROUP

Asian gay men university students

TYPE

Internship Program

DURATION

Ongoing since 2011

LOCATION

Sydney metropolitan focus



REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

ACON's Asian Gay Men Project is staffed by only one person, so additional human resources are needed to support the Project's multiple programs with Asian gay communities. University students, both those of Asian gay background and their (straight) allies, have much to offer in supporting the Project's health promotion work.

The Internship Project facilitates this support and also offers an opportunity for students to work closely with sexually diverse communities regarding HIV, thus gaining a real world understanding of lived realities which further informs their work.

AIMS

- Build the capacity of individuals and supportive networks from Asian gay communities to take on active roles in health promotion and community advocacy
- Promote increased literacy and engagement around HIV, sexuality and community building for gay and wider community members.

ACTIVITIES

Interns work on a specified project which is negotiated with the Asian Project Officer. Projects relate to a thesis, design or project that students will submit as part of their university course and also have practical application in the context of ACON's Asian Gay Men's Project. A Position Description is agreed on, and the Project Officer provides bi-weekly supervision. The internship can last anywhere from three months to two years.

Individuals from the following fields have participated in the program, with the associated projects:

Gender and Cultural Studies (USyd), 2012- 2014

- A Masters thesis on community engagement and consciousness of Asian gay men post-immigration
- Co-design of the Chinese HIV Testing campaign (see p. 53)
- Production of a Weibo (Chinese social media platform) strategy
- Training as a peer education facilitator.

Product Design (College of Fine Arts, UNSW), 2014

- Community engagement project to design health promotion resources displaying HIV prevention messages
- Production of a catalogue of ideas such as condom sleeves, playing cards, fashion accessories/tote bags and swimwear.

Digital and Social Media (UTS), 2012

- Production of a social media strategy to kick-start the Asian Project's engagement on Facebook and YouTube.

Media and Communications (UTS), 2011

- Visual art, written work and a social media strategy to tell the stories of Asian gay men, produced by a multidisciplinary team of interns.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project is implemented by the Project Officer in partnership with community members and interns.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The project has had excellent feedback from the interns, who have valued the experience of working with community members because it gave them a deeper understand of the struggles Asian gay men face and a broader appreciation of ACON's health promotion and community building processes.



Photo: Renee Petropoulos (intern).

PARTNERS

- Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney (USyd)
- College of Fine Arts, University of NSW (UNSW)
- School of Communication, University of Technology (UTS)

FUNDED BY

ACON

CONTACT DETAILS

ACON Health

Min Fuh Teh

✉ mtef@acon.org.au,
asia@acon.org.au
🌐 acon.org.au

A-Men Project

PRIORITY GROUP

Asian gay men

TYPE

Community building program

DURATION

2011-2012

LOCATION

Sydney

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Historically, Asian gay men's voices are underrepresented in gay and mainstream community discourses. This invisibility reinforces the stereotypes of victimhood from racism (especially sexual racism), homophobia, cultural disconnection and isolation. These dominant narratives, while containing elements of truth, are only half the story; however they colour the individual's sense of self and the wider community's perception, negating resilience and rendering HIV discourses a second order issue.



The A-Men project addressed these structural issues through community building around the activity of storytelling that encouraged ownership of Asian gay men's stories and lived realities.

AIMS

- Address structural barriers to HIV engagement and mental health
- Discuss stigma and HIV through culturally appropriate and sensitive means
- Mobilise communities towards active participation and self-determination in addressing health and wellbeing issues.

ACTIVITIES

The project developed a library of diverse narratives that both challenged pre-conceived notions about being Asian and gay in contemporary Sydney, and served as a community engagement resource. By working at the grassroots, the project also presented an opportunity to incorporate HIV messaging into community outreach and the resource creation process.

The project involved over 70 volunteers across four project activities.

Over 30 individuals of nine ethnicities contributed personal stories and photos to a book – *A-Men* – which highlighted the diversity of lived realities in contrast to the stereotype of ‘Asians’ as a homogenous group.

A-Men created an honest portrayal of contemporary Asian gay realities which could be used to encourage dialogue about issues such as stigma, acceptance, racism, HIV and wellbeing.

The book was endorsed by Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore and former High Court Justice, The Honourable Michael Kirby. It won the award for Best Print Publication at the 2014 NSW Premier’s Multicultural Media Awards.

A number of other activities were associated with the *A-Men* project:

Mardi Gras Queer Thinking Forum

- A forum at the annual Queer Thinking academic seminar, titled ‘Do You See Me’ addressed media representation of Asian gay men and highlighted the diversity encountered in the making of *A-Men*
- Attended by 120 people.

Book Launch

- *A-Men* was launched during the Mardi Gras season

- The launch was a community building initiative which involved over 60 volunteers and a collaboration with community artists, musicians, fashion designers and models including TriKone’s Bollywood dance troupe and the University of Sydney’s Indonesian Gamelan orchestra
- Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, Justice Michael Kirby and the Royal Thai Consulate officiated
- Coverage on SBS World News, ABC, SX magazine, Inside Out Channel and SameSame.

Mardi Gras Parade

- The *A-Men* Project had an entry in the Mardi Gras parade with the slogan ‘Diversity is Our Unity’
- 98 people took part, including members of the Asian transgender community.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

A-Men was made available in hardcopy and online. 1,000 hard copies were distributed through community networks and organisations, sexual health clinics and gay media. In addition to the media coverage, the ongoing *A-Men* Facebook page grew exponentially to 448 members in its first month.

Volunteer feedback showed increased social-connectedness, self-esteem, pride, HIV awareness and knowledge of services among gay Asian men. Two community focus groups also reported similar trends of greater community engagement and dialogue around wellbeing and self-esteem.

PARTNERS

- City of Sydney

FUNDED BY

City of Sydney’s Community Grants Program
ACON

CONTACT DETAILS

ACON Health

Min Fuh Teh

✉ mteh@acon.org.au,
asia@acon.org.au

🌐 acon.org.au
issuu.com/aconhealth/docs/a-men_magazine

📘 Facebook page:
facebook.com/amensydney

CALD Gay Men Action Group

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD gay men/MSM

TYPE

HIV health promotion interagency working group

DURATION

Ongoing since 2006

LOCATION

NSW

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The Action Group was established to address the gap in cross sector collaboration on CALD gay men’s HIV and health promotion needs.

The group plans, implements and evaluates HIV and STI initiatives targeting gay men and MSM of CALD backgrounds through partnerships between member organisations.

The Action Group comprises community organisations, social research institutions, Local Health District (LHD) HIV/AIDS and Related Programs (HARP) units and community representatives.

AIMS

- Monitor HIV and STI epidemiology in relation to CALD gay men and develop relevant health promotion responses that support the work of the Action Group
- Provide strategic leadership in HIV/STI policy and planning in relation to CALD gay men
- Develop, implement and coordinate cross agency health promotion and social marketing activities, in relation to CALD gay men and consistent with NSW HIV and STIs Strategic Plans
- Monitor and evaluate activities undertaken; contribute to an evidence-based best practice framework.





ACTIVITIES

Sydney Asian Gay Community Social Research (2015 – ongoing)

- A mixed method (quantitative – qualitative) multi-ethnic study looking at the HIV prevention needs and sexual health behaviour of Asian gay men/MSM in order to inform culturally targeted HIV health promotion campaigns and initiatives
- Qualitative research component, focusing on priority populations: Thai, Chinese and other South East Asian men
- Community input to ensure effective research design and execution, for example by identifying the need for Thai translation, culturally nuanced questionnaires and recruitment networks.

Chinese Gay Men's HIV Campaign (2014-ongoing)

- Bilingual HIV health promotion campaign targeting newly arrived Chinese speaking gay men, encouraging adoption of Sydney's HIV testing and safer sex culture (see next listing for more detail).

NCHSR Thai MSM Study (2009-2011)

- Researcher Henrike Körner from the National Centre of HIV Social Research (now CSRH), in partnership with the CALD Action Group, conducted pioneering research with Thai gay men living, working and studying in Sydney
- Research findings informed the development of health promotion strategies for Thai gay men.

Spanish Speaking Gay Men's Campaign (2008-2009)

- Press advertisements in gay media to encourage condom use, HIV disclosure and HIV/STI testing.

Why Test STI Resource Translation (2007-2009)

- Translation of STI resources into priority languages: Thai, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Chinese.

Thai Gay Men HIV/STI Testing Campaign (2006-2009)

- Annual health promotion campaign targeting Thai gay men
- Series of articles in Thai press promoting HIV/STI testing access.

RESOURCES

Historical projects, no current web links. Campaign imagery illustrates this listing.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Communities were key in the planning, development and implementation of the activities, through their involvement in the Action Group.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Current ongoing projects are to be evaluated. Feedback on historical projects indicated that

the messages were culturally appropriate, easy to understand and stood out among mainstream HIV/STI health promotion campaigns.

PARTNERS

- ACON
- Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service (MHAHS)
- Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH)
- Sydney LHD HARP Unit
- South Eastern Sydney LHD HARP Unit
- Sydney South West LHD HARP Unit
- Western Sydney LHD HARP Unit
- Northern Sydney LHD HARP Unit

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

ACON Health

Min Fuh Teh, Community Development, Health Promotion Officer
✉ mteh@acon.org.au

Brent Mackie, Manager, Community Partnership and Population Programs
✉ bmackie@acon.org.au
🌐 acon.org.au

Chinese Gay Men's HIV Campaign

PRIORITY GROUP/S

Chinese speaking gay men and MSM, including diaspora communities (Mainland Chinese, Taiwanese, Malaysian Chinese etc.), with a focus on those who are newly arrived and/or migrant background, especially international students

TYPE

Bilingual health promotion campaign

DURATION

Ongoing since 2014

LOCATION

Sydney metropolitan

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

An increase in HIV notifications in NSW among Chinese gay men and MSM, and a corresponding low HIV knowledge and engagement in this community with mainstream HIV health promotion material prompted the initiative to look into their health promotion needs. A needs assessment was conducted which indicated a need to target newly arrived Chinese gay men through culturally appropriate and nuanced HIV prevention messaging.

AIMS

- Increase HIV health literacy, condom use and HIV testing among Chinese speaking gay men
- Increase awareness of free, confidential sexual health services in NSW
- Destigmatise and increase community discourses on HIV, sexual health and sexuality, through use of proverbs and cultural cues in campaign communication.



ACTIVITIES

A bilingual resource was created as a poster and website, with the use of Chinese proverbs encouraging adaptation to Sydney's prevailing culture of HIV awareness, regular testing and condom use.

Campaign messaging and collateral were designed by an interagency partnership which included Chinese community members (overseen by ACON's Asian Project), the CALD Gay Men's Action Group, Local Health District HARP Units, research institutions and a community advisory group.

The campaign was promoted through social media and other online engagements, as well as via traditional printed media (both gay and Chinese language press).

3,500 pamphlets and 800 posters were distributed through LHD contacts, sexual health clinics, GP services and partner organisations, with another 500 distributed through gay venues and at community events.

The project also participated in gay community events and venues in 2014 (Mardi Gras Fair Day, Midnight Shift, Arq).



RESOURCES

- Poster and pamphlet/banners
- Webpage.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project is implemented by the Project Officer in partnership with the target community.

Community members have been involved with all aspects of the program as equal partners from the start, including the needs assessment, campaign message development, translation, imagery production/photography and designing the social media strategy.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Strong community partnership and ownership has ensured clear and culturally effective messaging especially on the sensitive topics of HIV, sexuality and sexual health. The campaign benefited from the cultural currency brought to the table by community members, for example by the use of cultural cues and tongue-in-cheek messaging through proverbs and wordplays.

The project also had strong sector partnership support. Local Health Districts and the Centre for Social Research and Health (CSRH UNSW) provided institutional support and financial and human resources.

Our experience with the program will change our future engagement with social media channels including Chinese platforms such as Weibo and Weixin to ensure more effective targeting of newly arrived gay men.

The response has been encouraging. Both community members and service providers say the messages stand out from regular health promotion campaigns. Service providers have indicated that the campaign has stimulated more enquiries about HIV and especially about testing services, from the target group.

There has been no formal evaluation as the campaign is still ongoing.

PARTNERS

- ACON
- Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service
- Sydney Local Health District HARP Unit

- South Eastern Sydney LHD HARP Unit
- Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH), UNSW
- Sydney Sexual Health Centre
- Kirketon Road Centre
- RPA Sexual Health
- Short St Clinic, Kogarah

FUNDED BY

ACON, with funding contributions from LHDs (NSW Health)

CONTACT DETAILS

ACON Health

Min Fuh Teh

✉ mtef@acon.org.au, asia@acon.org.au

🌐 acon.org.au



Gay Community Event Partnerships

PRIORITY GROUP

Asian gay men

TYPE

Community event partnership/sponsorship program

DURATION

Ongoing since 2011

LOCATION

Sydney metropolitan focus

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Asian gay community events are key avenues for engaging with the wider community, particularly across the diverse ethnic and cultural spaces that the community inhabits. The Asian Project annually supports a number of events, both to support community building initiatives led by the community itself and as a platform for HIV/STI health promotion.



AIMS

- Support initiatives that build communities, whether through financial or in-kind personnel support
- Promote HIV/STI health promotion messages, particularly ACON's Ending HIV campaign.

ACTIVITIES

Trans-Tasman Badminton Competition (2015)

- ACON's Gay Asian Men Project partnered with the Sydney Shuttles gay badminton club to present the event and promote the Ending HIV message
- Over 70 individuals from Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland, the majority of Asian background, participated
- Condoms and posters and pamphlets on PrEP, treatment and HIV testing were distributed at the event.

Mardi Gras Queen of The Night (2012 – 2015)

- Partnered with the Filipino LGBT community organisation FLAGCOM in their annual Mardi Gras beauty pageant for transgender and gay community members
- The pageant features multiple competition rounds with the Q&A session focused on HIV/STI knowledge, health information and gay rights
- The Asian Project provided Ending HIV messages and a video presentation, with a public address to promote ACON's Mardi Gras HIV campaigns

- Annual attendance of 400 people. Condoms distributed during intermission.

FantASIA, Arq Dance Party (2013, 2014)

- Promoted the launch of Ending HIV campaign at the Arq Mardi Gras Asian event with the help of volunteer 'models' from the community
- Video presentation of Ending HIV, public address and condoms distributed by the models
- Attended by 600 people.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The project had excellent feedback from partner networks and organisations, who said that it was particularly effective in promoting stronger representation of health and HIV issues and enhancing the visibility of Asian gay men in community spaces.

PARTNERS

- Sydney Shuttles Badminton Club
- FLAGCOM
- Arq Sydney

FUNDED BY

ACON

CONTACT DETAILS

ACON Health

Min Fuh Teh

✉ mteh@acon.org.au,

asia@acon.org.au

🌐 acon.org.au



SEX WORKERS

SWOP NSW CALD Project

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD sex workers

TYPE

Peer education, advocacy, representation and support

DURATION

Ongoing program since 1998

LOCATION

State-wide NSW (Sydney-based)
1800 number for regional and rural sex workers

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There was an identified lack of translated resources and culturally and linguistically appropriate programs for CALD sex workers, although they are a key demographic in the NSW sex work community. There are also significant service access barriers for CALD sex workers, who may require tailored programs to meet their needs.

AIMS

SWOP's mission is to:

- Improve the health of all sex workers in NSW through innovative, holistic, and effective approaches to sexual health
- Improve the protection of sex workers' human rights.

The CALD Project aims to:

- Support and respect the diversity of the sex industry and the self-determination of all sex workers by:
 - › Employing holistic approaches to health and wellbeing
 - › Supporting access to workplace rights
 - › Recognition of sex work as work.

ACTIVITIES

All of SWOP's services, such as safe sex supplies, safe spaces and personal advocacy, are available to CALD workers.

The program's CALD-specific core activity is bilingual culturally appropriate peer education and support (in three key community languages), comprised of outreach, new worker training, social events, translated resources and in-language telephone support.

SWOP also represents CALD sex worker needs across NSW through advocacy, community awareness raising and sensitivity training for sexual health and multicultural service providers.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The program is staffed by and for CALD sex workers, with two Thai peer educators covering four days, one Chinese peer educator covering four days, and one Korean peer educator covering two days per week.

The program was instigated by the community in response to needs identified by CALD sex workers via outreach and anecdotal feedback.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Positive feedback via informal evaluation during outreach and formal evaluation via a survey of CALD sex workers have affirmed the value and need for culturally appropriate, bilingual peer education.

SWOP NSW has the largest CALD team of all sex worker organisations in Australia and has been fortunate to be able to provide support to CALD sex workers in each of the key languages.

Staff have also provided translation and interpreting support to CALD peer educators from other state and territory sex worker organisations via the Scarlet Alliance National CALD Peer Support Network, because other projects often do not have CALD peer educators in the key languages.

PARTNERS

- Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association
- City of Sydney (translated resources)
- ACON

FUNDED BY

NSW Ministry of Health
Local Area Health district
City of Sydney

CONTACT DETAILS

SWOP NSW

Cheryl B, Outreach and Community Services Manager

☎ 02 9206 2166 / 1800 622 902

✉ swopconnect@swop.org.au

🌐 swop.org.au

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Reproductive and Sexual Health Action Project for African Communities (RAP4AC)

PRIORITY GROUP

African refugee communities

TYPE

Consultation and professional education for service providers

DURATION

July 2006 – June 2007

LOCATION

South Western Sydney

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

A survey by the NSW Refugee Health Improvement Network (RHIN) in 2004 identified common health issues for refugees and newly arrived members of African communities, including gaps in service provision and needs linked to reproductive and sexual health issues. Gaps included birth control, safe sex, women's health, STIs, breast and cervical screening.

AIMS

Sexual and reproductive health issues are often considered taboo and not talked about in African communities. This project aimed to:

- Increase the knowledge of service providers working with African communities (including new-arrival refugee communities) about reproductive and sexual health (R&SH) issues

- Increase service providers' awareness about relevant R&SH services, with particular focus on Family Planning NSW Multicultural Services
- Identify culturally appropriate ways of disseminating R&SH information to African communities
- Identify factors that may facilitate or impede the dissemination of this information to African communities.

ACTIVITIES

- Developed professional education curriculum for a training workshop ('Let's Get Talking Forum – Reproductive and Sexual Health Information for people who work with African Communities')
- Two identical workshops were held, one for men and women and another for women only. The top three R&SH topics on which service providers wanted presentations were: STIs, including HIV; contraception; and reproductive health.
- Reviewed and evaluated the training
- Disseminated RAP4AC project report to stakeholders.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project was initiated by members of the Refugee Health Improvement Network (RHIN). Consultation with key stakeholders (family planning organisations, service providers and African community leaders) led to the formation of the RAP4AC project Advisory Committee. This committee guided the development of the project.

OUTCOMES/EVALUATION

A process, impact and outcome evaluation was completed with moderate/good results.

Participants' responses to pre-and post-training surveys indicated an increase in knowledge and confidence. Results varied between the different workshops but up to 53% reported becoming more confident about answering people's questions about R&SH and there was up to 50% increase in knowledge.

A number of recommendations were made, including: conducting longer workshops, extending to regional areas, incorporating drama and music activities, involving young people, and inviting HIV-positive speakers.

PARTNERS

- African Workers Network
- Auburn Diversity Services Inc.
- Blacktown Community Health Centre
- Centrelink – Mt Druitt
- Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre
- Leichhardt Women's Health Centre
- Mission Australia
- Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis C Service
- NSW Refugee Health Service

FUNDED BY

NSW Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Family Planning NSW

Kath Bennett

☎ 02 4749 0504

✉ katherineb@fpnsw.org.au

🌐 fpnsw.org.au



NORTHERN TERRITORY

SERVICE/GROUP	ROLE	CONTACT
ANGLICARE SERVICES (RAMSS) – REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SETTLEMENT SERVICE	RAMSS provides services to people who have lived in Darwin less than five years, providing settlement information, referrals and support around issues such as accommodation, income concerns and health.	☎ 08 8985 0000 ✉ anglicare@anglicare-nt.org.au 🌐 anglicare-nt.org.au
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS	The work of this collaborative government and non-government Migrant and Refugee Sexual and Reproductive Committee is currently in abeyance.	Megan Howitt ☎ 08 8985 8018 ✉ megan.howitt@nt.gov.au
MELALEUCA REFUGEE CENTRE (MRC)	The Centre provides client focused services and referrals including counselling, settlement services, family and parenting support, health education and trauma-related information to refugee survivors, their family and communities.	☎ 08 8985 3311 ✉ admin@melaleuca.org.au 🌐 melaleuca.org.au
MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (MCNT)	MCNT is a community-based non-profit organisation that advocates and provides direct services for individuals, families and communities from CALD backgrounds in the Top End of the Northern Territory.	☎ 08 8945 9122 ✉ admin@mcnt.org.au 🌐 mcnt.org.au
NT AIDS AND HEPATITIS COUNCIL (NTAHC)	NTAHC is the key non-government organisation working in the area of BBVs education and support in the Northern Territory and is recognised as a source of informed and professional advice. NTAHC's programs aim to be inclusive of all people living with or at risk of HIV. Activities which are popular with CALD PLHIV include a food-sharing event with a nutritionist (EAT INDULGE CONNECT) and events for HIV-positive women.	☎ 08 8944 7777 ✉ info@ntahc.org.au 🌐 ntahc.org.au



QUEENSLAND

SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF QLD (ECCQ)	The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Sexual Health program at ECCQ works with CALD communities across Queensland to improve access to HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and sexual health information and services.	☎ 07 3255 1540 ✉ health@eccq.com.au 🌐 eccq.com.au
HIV FOUNDATION QUEENSLAND	The Foundation was established to coordinate the delivery of the Queensland HIV Strategy, which aims to reduce HIV transmission, support HIV/STI research and facilitate the delivery of HIV treatment and care.	☎ 07 3054 6100 ✉ info@hivfoundation.org.au 🌐 hivfoundation.org.au
QUEENSLAND AIDS COUNCIL (QUAC)	QuAC is an independent community based health promotion charity. QuAC's programs focus on sexual health, HIV prevention and LGBTI health and wellbeing.	☎ 07 3017 1777 / 1800 177 434 ✉ info@quac.org.au 🌐 quac.org.au Contact details for regional branches are on the website.
QUEENSLAND POSITIVE PEOPLE (QPP)	QPP is a peer-based, peer support and advocacy organisation committed to actively promoting self-determination and empowerment for all people living with HIV in Queensland.	QPP State Resource Centre ☎ 07 3013 5555 / 1800 636 241 ✉ info@qpp.org.au 🌐 qpp.net.au

WHOLE COMMUNITY

African Testing Project

PRIORITY GROUP

African communities in South East Queensland

TYPE

Research project

DURATION

One-off pilot in 2015

LOCATION

South East Queensland

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

African communities are disproportionately affected by HIV in Australia. Africans represent only 1.4% of the total Australian population however 9.3% of HIV diagnoses have been among people born in Africa since 2008.

HIV infection may be higher in African communities due to low HIV testing rates due to various barriers including culture, language, stigma, and being unfamiliar with the Australian health system. Increasing HIV testing is vital to reducing potential further HIV infection in African communities.

This study is a modified version of an existing community based HIV testing project.

AIMS

- Investigate the acceptability of a peer-based HIV testing service for African community members who are identified as being at risk by bilingual health workers
- Learn whether offering a community-based testing service within a nonclinical setting overcomes particular barriers to HIV testing within the African community.

ACTIVITIES

Ethical clearance has been obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service.

ECCQ bilingual health workers from African backgrounds will deliver targeted community outreach and collect oral samples using Orasure testing kits.

Queensland Positive People (QPP) will provide training for ECCQ bilingual health workers on the delivery of pre-test discussion in a peer based model, including PLHIV peer support services.

The samples will be mailed to the Toowoomba Sexual Health and HIV Service. Results will take about two weeks to be returned. The bilingual workers will not deliver test results. If the result is negative, an HIV Prevention Worker from QPP will inform the participant of the result in the manner nominated by that individual. If the result is positive, a clinician from the Toowoomba Sexual Health Clinic will contact the person by phone and advise them of the result, refer them to the most appropriate clinic and provide any additional follow up support through the HIV Public Health Team.

RESOURCES

The following resources have been developed and adapted by QPP:

- Orasure booklet
- Orasure flowchart
- Participant Consent Form
- Orasure Evaluation Form.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ECCQ bilingual health workers from African backgrounds will determine the most appropriate ways to identify and reach at risk people in their communities.

PARTNERS

- Queensland Positive People
- Toowoomba Sexual Health and HIV Service (Kobi House)
- Metro North Public Health Unit, Metro North Hospital and Health Service

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health in partnership with Queensland Positive People

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health

HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Sexual Health Program

PRIORITY GROUP/S

People from high HIV prevalence countries including males, females, youth and adults, including refugees from Africa and Asia, migrants from Papua New Guinea and other communities from high HIV prevalence countries.

Due to limited resources not all priority communities can be well targeted.

TYPE

Multi-strategy health promotion, focusing on peer education

DURATION

Ongoing since 1990

LOCATION

State-wide

AIMS

- Raise awareness
- Increase knowledge
- Dispel myths and misunderstandings

- Encourage testing
- Reduce stigma
- Promote HIV services and treatment.

ACTIVITIES

- Face to face workshops/information sessions: delivered mainly in community languages to gender and age specific groups of community members, and schools with a high number of students from CALD backgrounds
- Support for people living with HIV and their families
- Training for
 - › Community leaders/members, focusing on HIV awareness, knowledge, stigma and discrimination
 - › Multicultural service providers, focusing on HIV knowledge, stigma, discrimination and other relevant community issues
- Use of ethnic media
- Information stalls at multicultural festivals
- Events (forums etc.)
- Resource distribution.

RESOURCES

- Condom packs (see listing overleaf)
- Web information
- Printed resources (brochures, articles)
- HIV-specific resources:
 - › *Information about HIV & AIDS* (2006): Amharic (Ethiopian), Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Dari (Afghanistan), Filipino, Italian, Somali, Spanish, Thai, Tigrinya (Eritrean), Vietnamese. Some languages are out of print.
 - › *PEP* (2004 – translated into): Japanese
 - › HIV flip chart (see listing for HIV Education Workshops, p. 71)
- Resources that include HIV information:
 - › Booklet: *What you need to know ... Important health information for people from other countries* (2009): Chinese, Vietnamese, Farsi, Hazaraghi, Hindi and English
 - › It's time to talk DVD (see listing, p. 72)
 - › Posters.

Not all resources can be accessed through the website.

Please contact health@eccq.com.au for hard copies.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Varies, depending on specific program (see other listings).

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

All program activities are subject to ongoing evaluation including process and impact evaluation.

Evaluation indicates increased awareness and knowledge among participants. A number of participants have indicated they want to get tested and want more workshops and resources.

PARTNERS

The program works directly with targeted community members and with a range of multicultural agencies, including settlement agencies and relevant HIV services, such as Queensland Positive Speaker's Bureau, to deliver workshops, training and resources to maximise its reach and effectiveness.

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ)

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health

Condom Sample Packs

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD communities in Queensland

TYPE

Condom packs

DURATION

Ongoing program, began 2011

LOCATION

State-wide

AIM

- To make condoms more accessible to people in CALD communities and dispel myths associated with condom use.

ACTIVITIES

Condom sample packs are distributed free of charge at workshops, information stalls, events and when requested.

RESOURCES

The sample packs include three different sized condoms (naked, regular and large) and a sachet of lubricant. The idea behind the condom packs is that community members who are unsure of which size they should use can try first before ordering/buying condoms.

The packs include information on how to use male condoms and where to purchase them. The jacket is discreet with all sensitive information located on the inside.

The information on the jacket is updated from time to time as needed and includes pictures of people from CALD backgrounds. The last update was in 2014.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

ECCQ bilingual health workers from our target communities were consulted about the design of the jackets, what information to include and the contents.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

It is a challenge to keep track of the number of condoms distributed, to know whether they are actually used and whether the condom sample packs do encourage people to purchase condoms.

Some community members are shy to take condoms when other people are around although they are happy to contact our bilingual health workers and obtain them discreetly.

We have started procuring female condoms and would like to promote their use more widely in the community.

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health



Engaging Community Leaders in the Local HIV Response

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD community leaders including faith, women and youth leaders in Queensland

TYPE

Community Leaders' Forum on HIV

Community Dialogue on HIV

DURATION

Ongoing since September 2014

Similar events have been held in past years around World AIDS Day

LOCATION

The events were held in Brisbane and Toowoomba. Leaders from these areas as well as Ipswich and Logan participated in the events.

REASONS FOR THE PROGRAM

ECCQ identified a need to address:

- Stigma in the community and within families
- Low HIV testing rates
- The belief that HIV is not an issue in Australia.

AIMS

- Engage community leaders in the local HIV response to:
- Provide updates on the latest developments in HIV prevention and treatment
- Increase leaders' knowledge
- Identify strategies to address stigma in the community
- Inform program planning
- Allow leaders to network with their peers
- Enlist leaders' support in promoting ECCQ programs and encouraging community members to get tested.

ACTIVITIES

Three events were held between September 2014 and May 2015 which were attended by a total of 44 mostly male community leaders from African and Burmese communities (there was some overlap of attendance at the different events).

Community Leaders' HIV Forum: Be in Control. Know your status

Held in September 2014, presentations included lessons learnt from AIDS2014, an overview of HIV in Queensland, information about rapid testing and reflections from a positive speaker.

Community Dialogues on HIV

The Community Dialogues were held in Brisbane (March 2015) and Toowoomba (May 2015). A number of participants had attended the previous Forum.

Discussion at the Brisbane event focussed on cultural barriers that prevent people from accessing HIV information, testing and other services.

The Toowoomba Dialogue occurred because Toowoomba participants in the Brisbane event identified a need for a similar event to be held in their area. It included presentations from the Sexual Health Clinic in Toowoomba and a positive speaker.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The idea to hold the first HIV Forum came from Queensland scholarship recipients who attended AIDS2014. The intention was to disseminate key messages from the conference and distil what they meant for the communities ECCQ works with.

ECCQ's bilingual health workers were involved in the planning of all events. They consulted community leaders to get a sense of the key topics of interest. A volunteer from the local African community was actively involved in the conception, planning and facilitation.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The first HIV Forum aimed to share lessons learnt from AIDS2014 and focus on how to increase testing in the community; however the participants' lack of in-depth HIV knowledge

meant the discussion focussed on HIV transmission, prevention and treatment. As a result it was decided to continue to engage with the same leaders and allow more time for questions and discussion at future events.

At the Brisbane Dialogue leaders committed to working with ECCQ to promote testing in their communities, engage young people and schools with high CALD populations, and distribute condoms.

The Toowoomba Dialogue generated a lot of discussion around stigma, transmission, sexual behaviour, prevention and treatment. It was apparent the young people were not comfortable discussing this content in the presence of elders from their community and it was agreed to hold a separate event with Toowoomba youth leaders before the end of 2015.

Of the 19 evaluation forms completed, 18 participants said they would be willing to participate in similar events in future.

Participants liked the events for these reasons:

- Frank and open discussion
- Opportunity to discuss issues relevant to communities
- Provided advice on culturally appropriate responses to HIV
- Sharing of information between different cultural groups.

Participants' feedback on how to improve future events included:

- Provide an ongoing forum to sensitise leaders about HIV and Hepatitis B
- Similar events should be held in rural areas
- Involve government policy makers
- More community consultation is needed on prevention programs

For future events it should not be assumed that leaders have a certain level of knowledge. Also efforts need to be made to engage women and youth leaders separately.

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health

HIV Education Workshops

PRIORITY GROUP/S

CALD communities in Queensland

TYPE

Education workshops

DURATION

Ongoing, since 2004

LOCATION

South East Queensland including Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan and Toowoomba

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Key HIV-related issues for CALD populations that create barriers to accessing services include:

- Low levels of HIV knowledge in some communities
- Low health literacy and low English language proficiency
- A belief that everyone is tested for HIV before entering Australia and HIV is not an issue in Australia
- Low testing rates
- Late presentation
- Stigma and discrimination.

LINKS TO RELEVANT RESEARCH

Goris, J., Komaric, N., Guandalini, A., Francis, D., Hawes, E. (2013). Effectiveness of multicultural health workers in chronic disease prevention and self-management in culturally and linguistically diverse populations: a systematic literature review. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. bit.ly/litrev13

Henderson, S., Kendall, E. (2011). Culturally and linguistically diverse peoples' knowledge of accessibility and utilisation of health services: exploring the need for improvement in health service delivery. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. bit.ly/chsd-11

(2015). *HIV and sub-Saharan African communities in Australia: Briefing Paper #1 - Overview*. Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations. bit.ly/AfMay15

Persson, A., Brown, G., McDonald, A., Körner, H. (2014). Transmission and prevention of HIV among heterosexual populations in Australia. *AIDS Education & Prevention*. bit.ly/hiv-prev14

Lemoh, C. (2013). HIV in Victoria's African communities: reducing risks and improving care. PhD thesis. bit.ly/lemoh13

AIM

- Raise the awareness of HIV transmission, prevention, testing, treatment and support among CALD populations in Queensland.
- Address HIV stigma in CALD communities through improved knowledge and access to services.

ACTIVITIES

HIV education workshops are delivered in community languages by bilingual health workers.

ECCQ currently has nine bilingual health workers who can deliver workshops in the following languages: Acholi, Arabic, Burmese, Cantonese, Dinka, English, French, Juba Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Luganda, Madi, Mandarin, Swahili and Vietnamese.

For some communities male and female bilingual health workers have been employed to ensure gender specific workshops can be delivered.

These workshops include information on transmission, prevention, testing, treatment, available services, stigma and discrimination. In the past year there has been a renewed focus on promoting testing and the benefits of early treatment.

Workshops are delivered at a time and place convenient to community members. They are often held in people's homes and on weekends.

RESOURCES

Flip Charts have been produced as a resource for bilingual health workers to use when delivering the HIV workshops in their communities. They use images to help explain the information and as prompts for workers.

The Flip Charts are being updated to include information on rapid testing, the benefits of early treatment, how to use a female condom, positive living, stigma, and HIV and the law.

They are also available (as a PDF) to other service providers for educating their CALD clients. Order forms are available at: <http://www.eccq.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ECCQ-Flip-Chart-Order-Form-2012.pdf>

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ECCQ bilingual health workers were consulted during the design and updating of the HIV Flip Charts. The Flip Charts are primarily a resource for the bilingual workers to use, so their input was essential. An HIV-positive person from a CALD background also reviewed the Flip Chart and developed the stigma content.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The bilingual health workers are key to the successful delivery of the workshops. They are able to deliver sensitive and often taboo content in a culturally appropriate way and in a language that community members feel comfortable with.

The low health literacy of recent arrivals is a challenge. Sessions often need to be delivered more than once for the key messages to be conveyed.

Recruiting workshop participants can be challenging and time-consuming. Community members often work, study and have family commitments. In addition, they may not consider HIV to be a priority and consider it to be a taboo subject.

Pre and post workshop evaluation forms are completed in an attempt to measure changes in knowledge. However it is not possible to

know how many people get tested following the workshop or change their behaviour.

Evaluation results from a workshop conducted with 18 participants from the Karenni group included findings that:

- 13 people correctly answered that a blood test is the only way to know if you have HIV after the workshop compared to 5 before the workshop
- 16 people stated they would be willing to share a meal with a person living with HIV post-workshop compared to 4 pre-workshop.

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health

It's Time to Talk

PRIORITY GROUP

Burmese, South Sudanese, Congolese, Rwandan and Burundi communities

TYPE

DVD

DURATION

Produced in 2011-2012, ongoing distribution

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

The need for an audio-visual resource was identified by ECCQ because not all community members can read in their own languages and many communities have oral traditions.

AIMS

Provide information on:

- The facts about viral hepatitis, HIV and STIs
- Ways you and your family can stay safe and healthy
- How to get tested and what to expect
- Getting treatment and living well
- Real stories: real people living with HIV and viral hepatitis.

ACTIVITIES

A project officer was employed to coordinate the project. This included engaging communities, developing the script and having it translated. The DVD was produced by a company with experience in developing multicultural resources.

The DVD provides information about BBVs and STIs in Burmese, Karen, Juba Arabic, Dinka, Kirundi, Swahili and English. The DVDs are distributed to service providers and high schools at workshops and events, as a resource to support sexual health promotion activities. The DVDs are useful as an ice-breaker during family education and support sessions.

RESOURCES

They can be ordered online: www.eccq.com.au/what-we-do/health/hiv-aids-hepatitis-and-sexual-health/resources

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The target communities were consulted when developing the script for the DVD. The content was then focus tested in target communities and changes were made based on the feedback received.

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health



PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

CALD Group

PRIORITY GROUP

People living with HIV from CALD communities in South East Qld

TYPE

Peer support

DURATION

Once a month since 2015

LOCATION

Brisbane metropolitan

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

People living with HIV from CALD backgrounds have particular needs for support which need to be met in a culturally sensitive manner. QPP and ECCQ observed an increase in the number of CALD people living with HIV accessing their services and the group was established to improve their access to peer support through social activities.

AIMS

- Provide peer support to enhance emotional wellbeing
- Link people living with HIV to care and further support and information.

ACTIVITIES

A social group meeting is held once a month from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at QPP State Resource Centre to provide peer support for people with HIV from CALD communities. A small budget is available for refreshments and participants can prepare food on site if they wish to do so.

RESOURCES

A support group facilitation guide, which will support the group's ability to self-manage is in development and will be available from QPP.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

QPP provides in-kind support to promote events but the group is run by participants.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The group is very new; however some data will be collected after each meeting so that QPP can ensure that the group's needs are addressed as they arise.

PARTNERS

- Ethnic Communities Council Queensland (ECCQ)

FUNDED BY

QPP

CONTACT DETAILS

Queensland Positive People (QPP)
Peer Support Officer

☎ 07 3103 5555 / 1800 636 241

✉ info@qpp.org.au

🌐 qpp.net.au/events

Ethnic Communities Council Queensland (ECCQ)

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ healthpromotion@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au

MEN

Play Safe Soccer Project

PRIORITY GROUP

Men (including young men) from African communities in Queensland

TYPE

Combination of activities and resources

DURATION

2013-2014

LOCATION

South East Queensland including Brisbane, Logan, Redbank Plains and Toowoomba

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

ECCQ experienced difficulties in recruiting African men to attend workshops or information sessions.

AIM

- Engage African men to provide information about safe sex, STIs and HIV rapid testing.

ACTIVITIES

ECCQ bilingual health workers delivered sexual health information before /after training sessions or games.

Resources were distributed at the sessions.

RESOURCES

The project developed a number of resources, including soccer balls and bags with the Play Safe message. The bags, which were distributed to each player at the training sessions, contained printed information, condoms and other resources.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Coaches of African soccer teams were contacted to gauge their interest and helped to develop the project.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The men's STI knowledge was low. The sessions were an effective way to promote condom use and distribute condoms.

In one session a man disclosed to the group that he had had chlamydia and encouraged his team members to get a regular STI test.

FUNDED BY

Queensland Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Zhihong Gu, Program Manager

☎ 07 3255 1540

✉ health@eccq.com.au

🌐 eccq.com.au/health

SEX WORKERS

Respect Inc Asian Focused Peer Education Program

PRIORITY GROUP

Chinese, Korean and Thai language background sex workers

TYPE

Peer education, outreach, support and advocacy

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2010

LOCATION

State wide

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There is a lack of translated resources and culturally appropriate programs for CALD sex workers, although they are a key demographic in the Queensland sex work community. Addressing the intersecting issues related to migration, race and the criminalisation of sex work requires a tailored program to meet the needs of this under-served community.

AIMS

Respect is a peer-based sex worker organisation that aims to improve the rights of sex workers in Queensland and respond to workplace health and safety and other needs.

Respect's Asian-focused program aims to:

- Increase access to services, workplace health and safety and rights for Asian sex workers in QLD
- Provide a formal medium to communicate Asian sex worker issues and concerns regardless of gender, age, location, industry sector, legal status, cultural background or linguistic abilities.

ACTIVITIES

Respect's activities include peer education, outreach, new worker training, workshops, social events, drop in, translated resources, workshops, and advocacy related to workplace health and safety, legal and migration issues. Respect also raises community awareness of CALD sex worker issues and represents the interests of CALD sex workers in its advocacy for law reform in Queensland.

Respect is a member of the Migration Project Steering Committee and the National CALD Peer Support Network of Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association. Respect participated in Scarlet Alliance's investigation of the research needs of Asian sex workers in 2015.

Translated Workshops

Respect conducts translated workshops on working as a sex worker in Queensland which aim to support new workers' ability to maintain good health and safety. The workshops provide information about sexual health for the workplace, emotional wellbeing, safety, and tax and legal information.

RESOURCES

Flyers and audio resources developed for the workshops are available in English, Korean, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese. Download at: respectqld.org.au/information/workshops.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The program is staffed by bilingual peers from the target communities. Activities are informed by consultation through a peer Management Committee, informal feedback from Asian sex workers obtained via outreach, and the Queensland Asian sex worker needs analysis.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Program staff have been given positive feedback by the target community during outreach.

There is a need for funding to provide peer workers in all three key languages.

Under-resourced sex worker organisations in other states and territories use the translated resources that Respect has developed. These resources have fulfilled a crucial need, especially where CALD peer education is not prioritised by funders.

PARTNERS

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex workers Association

FUNDED BY

- QLD Health
- QLD attorney General's Department (for Asian Sex Worker Needs Analysis)



CONTACT DETAILS

Respect Inc

☎ Tel: 07 3835 1111

✉ info@respectqld.org.au

🌐 respectqld.org.au

Peer Educators

Joe, Brisbane Peer Educator
(Vietnamese speaker)

☎ 0424 657 064

✉ joe@respectqld.org.au

Sonya, Asian Focused Peer Educator
(Korean speaker)

☎ 0487 005 333

✉ sonya@respectqld.org.au



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
HIV INDIVIDUALISED SUPPORT PROGRAM (ISP) – CHELTENHAM PLACE, CENTACARE	Cheltenham Place – ISP is for people with HIV and their carers who are experiencing reduced independence and/or increased need. The program aims to provide individualised psychosocial rehabilitation support to promote recovery, resilience and re-integration into their community.	Anthea Bament ☎ 08 8272 8799 ✉ abament@centacare.org.au 🌐 centacare.org.au/hiv
POSITIVE LIFE SA	Positive Life SA provides program activities in response to the diverse needs and issues of people living with HIV, including a Positive Speakers Bureau, social events and emotional support.	☎ 08 8293 3700 ✉ reception@hivsa.org.au 🌐 positivelifesa.org.au
RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA, SA (RASA)	RASA is a not-for-profit, charitable organisation. RASA's services include a range of HIV-related programs with migrant and refugee communities: Mosaic Blood Borne Support Services focuses on the health and emotional wellbeing of people living with and affected by BBVs. PEACE (Personal Education And Community Empowerment) Multicultural Services supports and assists individuals, families and communities from CALD backgrounds to lead balanced and healthy lives. The program's community education focus includes HIV. The Women's HIV Peer Support Program aims to empower HIV-positive women to support and mentor their peers.	Enaam Oudih ☎ 08 8245 8100 ✉ e.oudih@rasa.org.au 🌐 rasa.org.au
SA MOBILISATION & EMPOWERMENT FOR SEXUAL HEALTH (SAMESH)	SAMESH provides information, resources, peer education and support on sexual health and wellbeing for both HIV-positive and HIV-negative people. SAMESH staff also provide referrals for appropriate counselling and clinical care.	Wills Logue ☎ 1300 794 584 🌐 samesh.org.au
SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORKING & EDUCATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SHINE SA)	SHine SA's Project Officer – CALD Youth, develops, delivers and evaluates education, information and resources about sexual health and relationships for CALD workers and communities.	Khadija Gbla ☎ 08 8300 5325 ✉ khadija.gbla@shinesa.org.au 🌐 shinesa.org.au

WHOLE COMMUNITY

African Communities HIV Conference

PRIORITY GROUP

African community, religious and youth leaders, key stakeholders and service providers

TYPE

Conference and discussion forum

DURATION

One day event on 17 May 2013

LOCATION

Adelaide

AIMS

- Engage key African community members and workers in understanding the importance of acknowledging, normalising and de-stigmatising HIV within their communities
- Disseminate HIV information in order to increase awareness, encourage testing, prevent transmissions, promote adherence to treatment, increase access to services and highlight safe practices
- Assess the efficacy of prevention, testing and quality of life strategies outlined in the CALD HIV Interagency Committee (CHIC) strategic document
- Assist the sector in highlighting current challenges around community engagement and accessing health and support services
- Address stigma and discrimination
- Develop grass roots recommendations, strategies and ideas about how to move forward in partnership with African communities and address these issues.

ACTIVITIES

- PEACE recruited participants through existing networks
- Keynote speakers from clinical and health promotion services presented on topics relating to current statistics, the relevance to African communities, transmission, prevention, testing and quality of life. Time was allocated for questions and discussion
- Two African HIV-positive speakers presented their personal stories
- Workshops and small group activities focused on testing campaign ideas, normalising HIV and challenging stigma, and ways forward.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

- Pre and post conference surveys indicated that participants gained new knowledge on HIV transmission, prevention and testing
- Feedback forms indicated that participants rated the conference as 'excellent' and found it very beneficial, especially in regards to networking, new learning and hearing about real life experiences from HIV-positive speakers
- Verbal feedback suggested that participants gained valuable insight into the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV and felt inspired to invite HIV-positive speakers into their communities
- Participants enjoyed engaging in lively discussion and debate
- Strategies and recommendations were made regarding partnership projects, testing campaigns, ways forward and tackling stigma.

PARTNERS

- AIDS Council of South Australia (no longer operating)



- African Communities Leaders Advisory Forum (ACLAF – now SAACHAC)

FUNDED BY

SA Health, the STI and BBV Section

CONTACT DETAILS

PEACE Multicultural Services
(Relationships Australia, SA)

Enaam Oudih, Manager
✉ e.oudih@rasa.org.au
☎ 08 8245 8100
🌐 rasa.org.au

South Australian African Communities Health Advisory Committee (SAACHAC)

PRIORITY GROUP

Key leaders of African communities within South Australia

TYPE

Capacity building program/community development

Strategic direction setting

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2013

LOCATION

Metropolitan South Australia

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

SAACHAC was developed in order to ensure true community participation, meaningful partnerships and grassroots action in relation to HIV and BBV prevention and awareness in South Australian African communities.

AIMS

- Contribute to the planning and development of culturally appropriate responses when needs are identified

- Support the development of culturally appropriate resources
- Contribute to AFAO's National African Communities Project (see p.11)
- Provide advice to the HIV and hepatitis sector when required
- Improve HIV and hepatitis sector knowledge of cultural issues associated with HIV and viral hepatitis
- Improve African communities' access to available resources and relevant services
- Make recommendations and guide future actions to achieve the above aims.

ACTIVITIES

Cross-Cultural Training

This training provided a platform for service providers working in the BBV/STI and CALD sector to engage with key influential leaders and professionals from the African community on how to work effectively with clients from African backgrounds. The training was entirely coordinated and facilitated by SAACHAC members.

'No Fear' Stigma and Discrimination Workshop

This workshop (coordinated by SAACHAC) addressed HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Sixteen different African communities were represented by key members and leaders. Attendees were given the opportunity to learn about these issues through presentations and personal stories, and open discussion of their own experiences, knowledge and questions.

Community involvement in program development

All SAACHAC members are primary drivers of the development, recruitment and implementation of specific HIV projects. Once a project has been decided upon, a sub-committee takes on responsibility for overseeing it and works in collaboration with PEACE Multicultural Services to ensure its success. PEACE also provides administrative and structural support.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The committee

The development of SAACHAC has proved to be a highly successful strategy for enabling community participation that is not just about ticking boxes and tokenistic consultation.

Treating SAACHAC as equal stakeholders in the BBV and STI community response has resulted in members feeling a sense of ownership and pride in the work they do. Their ongoing commitment and enthusiasm is demonstrated through their consistent attendance of meetings, availability for consultation, and ownership of actions such as cross-cultural sector training and community responses and activities.

Events

SAACHAC events have been attended by over 150 individuals (both workers and community members). Overwhelmingly positive feedback was received, including:

- Workers feeling better equipped and more confident to work with African clients
- Community leaders/members feeling inspired to tackle HIV-related stigma within their communities.

Equally inspiring is hearing the personal change journeys that a number of the SAACHAC members have undergone, and how they have challenged themselves and shifted their beliefs through exposure to new information and diverse individuals.

This highlights how they authentically represent the average community member, who may only stigmatise others due to fear of the unknown and a lack of appropriate education. One member captured this perfectly:

'I felt so much fear and stigma towards people living with HIV and I know that many people in my community are just like me. But I am hopeful because I know that I've changed and that they can change too'.

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

PEACE Multicultural Services
(Relationships Australia, SA)

Enaam Oudih, Manager
Laura Adzanku, Community Support Worker
✉ e.oudih@rasa.org.au
☎ 08 8245 8100
🌐 rasa.org.au

Travel Safe Booklet

PRIORITY GROUP/S

People travelling to high prevalence countries

TYPE

Poster and booklet

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2010

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

To address the increase in HIV notifications acquired overseas and develop resources that are culturally appropriate and relevant.

AIM

- To reduce HIV notifications associated with travel to and from high prevalence countries.

ACTIVITIES

Travel safe poster

- Developed in collaboration with a working group of key stakeholders from the sector and key affected communities
- Includes key messages around packing and using condoms to reduce the risk of HIV acquisition
- Disseminated to sexual health and medical clinics, settlement and multicultural service providers, sector workers and cultural associations
- Developed in 2010, updated in 2014.

Travel safe booklet

- Steering committee established to assist in the development of a resource targeting workers/leaders engaging with CALD clients planning overseas travel to high prevalence countries
- Includes information related to precautions to take before, during and after overseas travel, in order to prevent and/or respond to HIV, STI and viral hepatitis infection
- Training on how to use the booklet was provided to sector service providers, travel clinics, doctors and nurses, community leaders and settlement workers
- A working group was formed to review the booklet. Feedback from this group, along with survey feedback, was implemented in an updated version of the resource (2015).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Steering committee and working group were involved in the development and implementation phases.

EVALUATION /OUTCOMES

More than 500 booklets and 200 posters were distributed to over 50 different service providers and communities.

Feedback indicates that the booklet is easy to understand, culturally appropriate, informative and a useful resource to engage clients in discussions related to safe practices when travelling overseas.

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

PEACE Multicultural Services
(Relationships Australia, SA)

Enaam Oudih, Manager
☎ 08 8245 8100
✉ e.oudih@rasa.org.au
🌐 rasa.org.au



Volunteer/Peer Program

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD community members from priority populations (particularly those who are influential or well connected with their respective communities)

TYPE

Capacity building/community development program

DURATION

2014 – 2015

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

PEACE Multicultural Services recruits volunteers and peer educators to engage with CALD communities on HIV-related issues. The program replaces PEACE's Certificate IV in Community Services and was initiated in order to provide short-term, intensive training to increase the knowledge base and practical skills required for volunteer work.

AIMS

- Upskill participants to become volunteers and peer educators for the PEACE program
- Normalise HIV and challenge stigma and discrimination in CALD communities
- Increase HIV health literacy
- Build participants' capacity for starting their own HIV community initiatives and disseminating HIV information to peers
- Establish relationships with participants' respective communities.

ACTIVITIES

The program utilised a peer education model which has proven highly effective in empowering community members to take control of their own health in relation to HIV prevention, transmission, early diagnosis, treatment and stigma.

The program was split into two sections:

- The training program – a 10 week course focusing on HIV and related health and social issues
- Community work – participants who completed the training program supported the development and implementation of a number of different HIV events and activities.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

- 10 participants completed the course and went on to become volunteers
- Volunteers contributed to a total of five HIV community activities, including a World AIDS Day event
- Evaluation following the training program indicated that:
 - › 100% of participants had found the program interesting and useful
 - › 100% of participants had learnt something new
- In addition, participants not only contributed to community activities, they also shared their experiences challenging HIV stigma and discrimination within their respective communities at monthly volunteer meetings.

PARTNERS

Organisations such as SHine SA and Hepatitis SA were invited as guest presenters during the training program.

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Relationships Australia (SA),
PEACE Multicultural Services

Enaam Oudih, Manager
☎ 08 8245 8100
✉ e.oudih@rasa.org.au
🌐 rasa.org.au



WOMEN

CALD Women's Advisory Forum

PRIORITY GROUP

Key female leaders from CALD communities in South Australia

TYPE

Capacity building /community development program

DURATION

Ongoing program

LOCATION

Metropolitan South Australia

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The CALD Women's Advisory Forum (CWAF) was initiated to enable women's active participation in the response to an increase in HIV diagnoses among CALD women in South Australia.

CWFA provides opportunities to:

- Participate in the development and planning of specific community projects
- Raise community awareness and build capacity/health literacy in relation to BBVs, STIs, and related issues and social health determinants
- Empower and mobilise women to contribute to HIV-related programs and service delivery.

AIMS

- Identify and respond to current issues facing CALD women in relation to HIV
- Drive and take ownership of initiatives, projects and activities to build health literacy and capacity in CALD communities
- Provide feedback and strategic advice to the BBV and STI sector in relation to CALD women, HIV and related issues
- Act as a problem-solving and consultative forum to address issues that arise at a policy or operational level
- Provide opportunities to network and raise awareness on HIV related issues
- Provide a forum for sharing information and resources for women in CALD communities
- Create pathways to appropriate services for women in CALD communities.

ACTIVITIES

Empowering African Women's Project

Members of the committee assisted in the development and implementation of this project, which is targeted at vulnerable or at risk African women.

World AIDS Day

Committee members provided guidance and direction in the coordination of a World AIDS Day women's event. Members provided testimonials, speeches and made a public declaration of support for women living with and/or affected by HIV.

Gendered violence and HIV

The committee is planning a large community event focusing on the relationship between gender inequality and HIV. Both men and women from CALD communities will be invited to discuss and unpack these critical issues.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

All members are active participants in the development, recruitment and implementation of HIV projects focusing on women.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

All projects and events have been highly successful and well received.

The majority of the Empowering African Women's Project participants rated the course as excellent and extremely responsive to their needs.

The World AIDS Day women's event was attended by over 120 people from over 30 CALD communities. Feedback from this event indicated that attendees were particularly inspired by committee members (key leaders) speeches and supportive stance towards women living with and affected by HIV.

PARTNERS

- HIV Women's Project
- SHine SA (World AIDS Day)
- Centacare (World AIDS Day)

FUNDED BY

SA Health

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

PEACE Multicultural Services
(Relationships Australia, SA)

Laura Adzanku,
Community Support Worker
☎ 08 8245 8100
✉ l.adzanku@rasa.org.au
🌐 rasa.org.au

MEN

UNIDOS

PRIORITY GROUP

Gay men and MSM from CALD priority populations

TYPE

Support, mentoring and community projects

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2011

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

UNIDOS (Spanish for 'unity') provides a friendly, non-judgemental and supportive space for same-sex attracted people from CALD backgrounds to receive individualised support and/or connect with others.

People from CALD backgrounds often find themselves in a very challenging position where they are forced to deal with homophobia within their own communities and racism from the wider Australian gay community. These individuals may be very socially isolated.

CALD gay men and MSM who are struggling with their sexuality are at higher risk of HIV acquisition due to low health literacy (in relation to safe sex, HIV related risks and testing) and sexual racism.

Many are unaware of the existence of services like UNIDOS, that understand the complexities of culture and sexuality and have workers who are same-sex attracted and from CALD backgrounds. UNIDOS works hard to reach out to these individuals.

AIMS

- Provide safer social opportunities for CALD gay men and MSM and link them to other support services
- Challenge stigma and discrimination at a broader community level, through advocacy and education.

ACTIVITIES

Social activities

UNIDOS' social and group events provide opportunities for CALD gay men and MSM to connect with one another and share their experiences regarding culture, sexuality and cross-cultural relationships, and to also receive valuable information about HIV and related issues.

Mentoring support

UNIDOS provides online and over the phone support and sexual health education to CALD gay men and MSM who are struggling with their sexuality.

Training and professional development

UNIDOS provides training sessions for schools, counsellors, settlement workers and the HIV sector on same-sex attraction and cultural diversity.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing consultations are held with UNIDOS members regarding the development of social and group events. UNIDOS members were also involved in the development of the flyer, brochure, web page and Facebook group.

EVALUATION /OUTCOMES

Feedback received from our members is overwhelmingly positive, including:

- Appreciation of the opportunities to meet other people who have similar experiences
- Greater awareness of risk-taking behaviours related to HIV
- Increased knowledge about how to take control of their health and wellbeing
- More confidence in navigating the perceived conflict between sexuality and culture.

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

PEACE Multicultural Services,
Relationships Australia (SA)

Ben Yi, Community Support Worker

☎ 08 8245 8100

✉ b.yi@rasa.org.au

🌐 rasa.org.au/unidos

📘 Facebook: closed group



YOUTH

Multicultural Youth Drive (MYD)

(Formerly known as the African Youth Drama Drive)

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD youth from priority populations

TYPE

Capacity building program

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2013

LOCATION

Metropolitan South Australia

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The Multicultural Youth Drive was established by PEACE Multicultural Services, a program of Relationships Australia (SA), in response to the emerging needs of CALD youth who are vulnerable to, or already engaging in risk taking behaviours associated with sexual health.

Recently, notifications of sexually transmitted infections among CALD youth in South Australia have significantly increased, indicating unsafe sex practices and a higher risk of HIV.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that CALD youth do not actively engage with service providers and health promotion initiatives because they do not perceive them as relevant and meaningful to their personal lives.

AIMS

- Increase the awareness, knowledge and skills of CALD youth communities to respond effectively to BBV and STI risk and impacts, and to access appropriate support

- Address disengagement and service provision gaps by inspiring the proactive participation of young people.

ACTIVITIES

Music, theatre, dance and other creative arts attract participation in health promotion in a way that resonates with young people's passions and interests. Through these mediums, CALD youth are empowered to take control over their sexual health and develop skills and language to promote positive messages to their peers.

Song writing and music production project

This project focused on writing and producing songs about HIV, STIs, safe sex and related issues. Youth participated in informal education sessions at the beginning of each song-writing session that focused on themes such as drug and alcohol use, racism, respectful relationships, gendered violence, peer pressure, positive decision making and sexual health. All songs incorporated messages regarding social determinants relating to sexual health.

Dance choreography project

This project used dance to explore the expression of emotions, respect, communication and sexual health. It also included informal information and discussion sessions. Topics included:

- Personal values around sexual health
- Sexuality
- Racism
- Homophobia
- Intergenerational conflict
- HIV, STIs, testing and safe sex.

Short film on HIV stigma and discrimination

This project produced a short film addressing HIV-related stigma and discrimination. 'Left Out' depicts the life of a young man who has recently been diagnosed with HIV and the struggles he endures as a result of discrimination from his

classmates. All actors were required to participate in HIV education workshops prior to filming.

Quiz Master 2015

In collaboration with SHine SA and Hepatitis SA, the program hosted a quiz event, targeted at CALD youth, with the goal of increasing knowledge and awareness of sexual health and related issues. This event was an innovative and engaging platform through which young people could learn about valuable health topics outside of the traditional classroom environment.

RESOURCES

A Facebook page and YouTube channel have been created.

Video and audio links

MYD Dance Project:
youtu.be/OJzzeY1Y5_8

MYD Message:
youtu.be/GRdWi00puV0

MYD Mini Documentary:
youtu.be/fVXPqPUO-xQ

MYD Short film:
youtu.be/AhU8qXJsglw

MYD Songs
(Living Dead, No Matter What, The Other Night):
soundcloud.com/multicultural-youth-drive-1

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

MYD is a youth led initiative; therefore the involvement of CALD youth in the development and implementation of programs is pivotal. This is achieved through an executive committee made up of eight young people from Kenyan, South Sudanese, Nepalese, Somali and Kurdish backgrounds. The committee meets on a monthly basis to discuss, plan and evaluate projects and activities.

MYD also provides consultative platforms where young people can voice their opinions and concerns. Youth events such as the Youth Speak Out Forum (a community consultation in 2014) give CALD youth a voice and a role in sharing their experiences and knowledge, and in influencing the strategic direction of future service delivery.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Overall achievements

Learning about sexual health in an informal setting, sharing their personal experiences and integrating them into creative art performances, connects the participants to the MYD program 'on their level' and creates a sense of ownership and pride.

Through exploring wider social health determinants (racism, self-esteem, settlement challenges, intergenerational conflict, drug and alcohol use, mental health, relationships, identity and belonging), MYD creates a space where service providers and youth can develop a shared language to unpack and understand sexual health from unique perspectives.

The strong partnerships with diverse artists, parents and elders, multicultural service providers and youth leaders are also an important aspect of the program.

Resources

The MYD Facebook page and YouTube channel have over 200 'friends' and there have been over 1,000 hits on featured works.

The 'Left Out' film launch attracted over 100 attendees from a diverse array of CALD communities. The film has been viewed 318 times on YouTube and shared far and wide across social media platforms.

Quiz Master 2015 attracted 34 youth participants from over 10 cultural backgrounds. Increased sexual health and HIV knowledge was evidenced by quiz teams averaging 8.5/10 for all question sets.

PARTNERS

- Black Empire Studios
- Creative House Dance Studio

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

PEACE Multicultural Services
(Relationships Australia, SA)

CeCe Braima, Support Services Worker

☎ 08 8245 8100

✉ c.braima@rasa.org.au

🌐 rasa.org.au

SEX WORKERS

South Australian Sex Industry Network (SIN) CALD Project

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD sex workers

TYPE

Peer education, outreach, support and advocacy, social events and sex worker safe spaces

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2000, when initial funding was for work with Thai, Chinese and Korean workers.

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There is a lack of translated resources and culturally appropriate programs for CALD sex workers, although they are a key demographic in the SA sex work community. Addressing the intersecting issues related to migration, race and the criminalisation of sex work require a tailored program to meet the needs of this under-served community.

AIMS

SIN's purpose is to work with and for sex workers by providing reliable, consistent and efficient support, peer education and advocacy. SIN is committed to being accountable to the sex worker community and maintaining a safe, relaxed and accessible place for sex workers.

The CALD project aims to:

- Provide outreach, peer education, information, support and safer sex supplies to migrant sex workers and sex workers from non-English speaking backgrounds.

ACTIVITIES

SIN promotes and advocates for the health rights and wellbeing of sex workers in SA. SIN's activities include peer education, outreach, training, workshops, social events, drop-in, translated resources, and sensitivity training for service providers, including sexual health and multicultural services.

SIN also raises community awareness of CALD sex worker issues and represents the interests of CALD sex workers in its advocacy for law reform in SA.

SIN is a member of the Migration Project Steering Committee and the National CALD Peer Support Network of Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association.

Testing buddy

This program provides support for sex workers to access STI/HIV testing at sex worker friendly clinics. A peer educator accompanies individual sex workers to the clinic, providing peer support, interpreting support, information and transport.

RESOURCES

Resources in appropriate community languages are provided during outreach.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SIN is a peer sex worker organisation and the program is staffed by and for CALD sex workers. It was instigated by the community via the sex worker program committee in response to needs identified by CALD sex workers during outreach and via anecdotal feedback.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Positive feedback from both informal evaluation via the outreach program, and formal evaluation via a survey of CALD sex workers, affirms the value and need for culturally appropriate, bilingual peer education.

A Thai peer educator provides these services two days per week. There is a strong need for resourcing for increased hours for the CALD Project and for the addition of a Chinese language background sex worker peer educator to meet the needs of the community.

PARTNERS

Scarlet Alliance Migration Project

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

SIN

Kat Morrison, Coordinator
Suree Holler, Thai Peer Educator,
available Thursday and Friday

☎ 08 8351 7626

✉ coordinator@sin.org.au

🌐 sin.org.au

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student Health and Wellbeing Fact Sheets

PRIORITY GROUP

International students in South Australia

TYPE

Resource: Factsheets

DURATION

Published 2014

LOCATION

Adelaide metropolitan region

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

The International Student Health Resource was developed as a key recommendation of the South Australian Health in All Policies (HiAP) International Student Health and Wellbeing project. It was found that international students are often unaware and unfamiliar with the systems and structures of social support available to them, and also lack an understanding of our complex health system.

It is important that international students receive appropriate support and know what health and wellbeing services are available to them while studying in South Australia because all individuals deserve the opportunity to maximise their learning potential and should enjoy a positive educational experience.

AIM

- Assist international students to better understand and navigate the health system, with particular reference to South Australian services.

ACTIVITIES

The Health Resource is a series of easy to understand fact sheets answering some frequently asked questions regarding the physical, psychological and sexual health needs of international students.

The Fact Sheets cover:

- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Doctors and Hospitals
- Medications, the Dentist and Allied Health Services
- Emotional Wellbeing
- General Health and Wellbeing
- Sexual Health (including information on STIs and HIV).

RESOURCES PRODUCED

The Fact Sheets can be downloaded at: sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies

Hard copies are also available on request.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A wide range of individuals and agencies across the health and tertiary education sectors, including a focus group of international students, contributed towards the development of the resource.

This partnership approach ensured the structure and framing of the document was applicable to the needs of international students, and allowed for consideration of language in the context of the topics covered within each of the factsheets.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

An impact and outcome evaluation has not been completed; however, feedback from international students and the tertiary/VET education sectors has been positive.

Given the high use of latest technologies by international students, it may have been beneficial to develop an app to increase the uptake of the information contained within the factsheet series.

PARTNERS

- Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (this portfolio now sits in the South Australian Department of State Development)

FUNDED BY

SA Health

CONTACT DETAILS

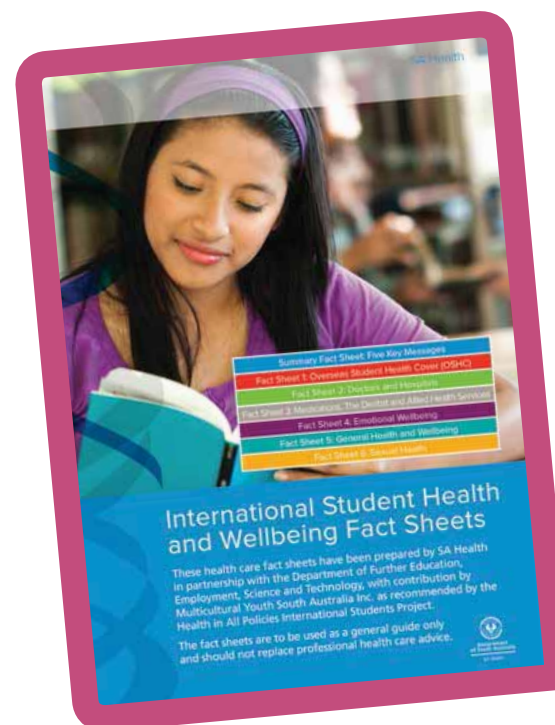
South Australian Department for Health and Ageing

Carmel Williams, Manager, Strategic Partnerships, Public Health Services

☎ 08 8226 6227

✉ carmel.williams@sa.gov.au

🌐 sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies



SERVICE PROVIDERS

Freedom to Explore Sexual Health – CALD Focus

PRIORITY GROUP

Workers who work with CALD communities in South Australia

TYPE

Professional development/training

DURATION

New program in 2015: two days of training, once per year

LOCATION

Adelaide

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

CALD workers require support and professional development to incorporate sexual health and relationships into their work with CALD clients.

AIMS

The FRESH Course (CALD Focus) is a two day training course for workers who wish to improve their own sexual and reproductive health knowledge and address sexual health and relationship issues in multicultural communities.

On completion of the FRESH course, participants will have:

- An increased level of confidence working with clients in the area of sexual health
- A better understanding of how values and beliefs may influence practice in this area of work

- A new vocabulary about sexual health and relationships to use when talking with clients
- A referral guide and knowledge of how to support clients to access relevant services
- Developed an understanding of available resources and how to use them effectively with clients.

ACTIVITIES

The training covers a wide range of topics relating to sexual and reproductive health and relationships. Course content includes interactive learning activities, games and multimedia presentations, and expert guest speakers with specialist knowledge (e.g. working with multicultural communities, sex and the law, sexual health nurses).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A reference committee of community members and CALD workers met over two sessions to inform the course coordinator on content, structure and delivery of the training.

FUNDED BY

SA Health and SHine SA

CONTACT DETAILS

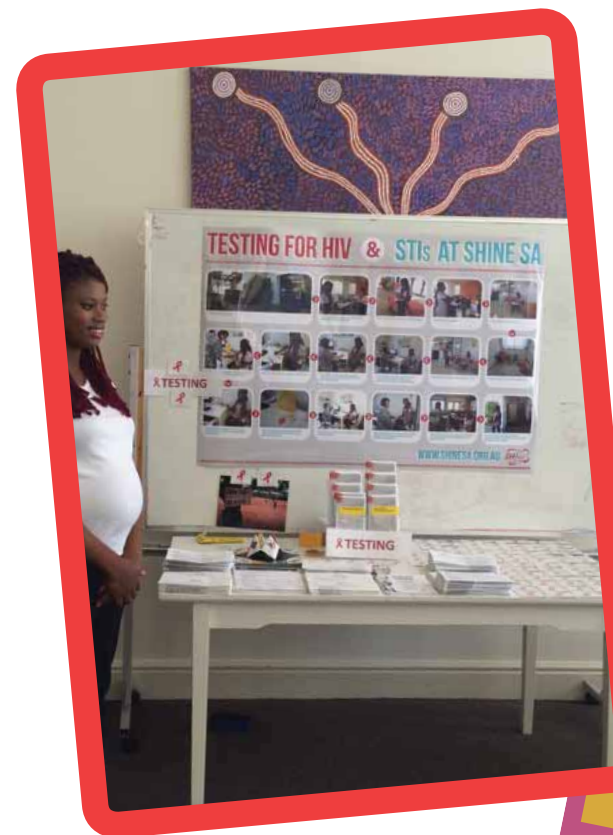
SHine SA

Khadija Gbla, Project Officer – CALD Youth

✉ Khadija.gbla@shinesa.org.au

☎ 08 8300 5320

🌐 shinesa.org.au/courses/cald-workers





TASMANIA

SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
TASMANIAN COUNCIL ON AIDS, HEPATITIS AND RELATED DISEASES (TASCAHRD)	TasCAHRD has been providing care and support for people with HIV for over 25 years. Support is also provided for the partners, family and carers of people living with HIV.	Sabine Wagner, CEO ☎ 03 6234 1242 ✉ ceo@tascahrd.org.au 🌐 tascahrd.org.au
REFUGEE MIGRANT LIAISON OFFICER, ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL	The Refugee and Migrant Liaison Officer is a full time position based at the Royal Hobart Hospital with the aim of assisting the acute care system to appropriately and confidently provide services to refugee and migrant patients accessing care.	Jenny Forward ☎ 03 6222 8126 ✉ jenny.forward@ths.tas.gov.au
REFUGEE HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER, LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL	The Refugee Health Social Worker provides a range of social work services to communities who arrived in Australia as asylum seekers and refugees and currently live in northern Tasmania. This includes direct client work, advocacy, training, community development, policy, and program development.	Susan Neighbour ☎ 03 6777 4289 / 0409 537 922 ✉ susan.neighbour@ths.tas.gov.au
SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE TASMANIA	Sexual Health Service Tasmania is a state-wide service with offices in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. The service provides clinical, counselling and education services related to sexual health and HIV.	Dr Louise Owen ☎ 03 6233 3557 ✉ louise.owen@dhhs.tas.gov.au
RED CROSS BI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM	The Bi-cultural Community Health Program supports refugee background communities in developing their health literacy. The program also builds the Tasmanian health sector's competency to provide appropriate health care to this population.	Xavier Lane-Mullins ☎ 03 6235 6001 ✉ xlanemullins@redcross.org.au



VICTORIA

SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
HIV CALD SERVICE, Alfred Hospital	The HIV CALD Service supports individuals living with HIV from CALD backgrounds to engage with health services and community supports and reduce their isolation. This is a state-wide service accepting referrals throughout Victoria. Confidential support is provided by bilingual co-workers.	Maureen Plain, Coordinator ☎ 03 9076 3942 / 0404 028 552 ✉ multiculturalservice@alfred.org.au
Living Positive Victoria (LPV)	LPV is a community based organisation committed to the advancement of human rights and wellbeing of all people living with HIV in Victoria. LPV delivers a range of programs for PLHIV including workshops for newly diagnosed, public speaking training, community education forums, newsletters, peer support, and campaigns and resources on treatments and wellbeing.	Suzy Malhotra ☎ 03 9863 8733 ✉ smalhotra@livingpositivevictoria.org.au 🌐 livingpositivevictoria.org.au
Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS: a program of the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health - CEH)	MHSS works with migrant and refugee communities on the prevention of BBVs and STIs. MHSS collaborates with communities and agencies to improve access to information, support, testing and preventative health messaging, as well as increasing culturally responsive and inclusive service delivery.	Alison Coelho ☎ 03 9416 9909 ✉ alisonc@ceh.org.au 🌐 ceh.org.au/mhss
POSITIVE WOMEN (PWV)	PWV is Australia's only community based organisation specifically funded to support women living with HIV. For over 25 years PWV has responded to women's changing needs, recognising the impact gender has on the way women experience HIV and addressing the specific needs and emerging issues that affect women living with HIV in Victoria.	☎ 03 9863 8747 ✉ info@positivewomen.org.au 🌐 positivewomen.org.au
STRAIGHT ARROWS INC	Straight Arrows provides individual peer support and a range of programs to foster social inclusion and resilience for women and heterosexual men living with HIV and their partners and families.	Sara Graham ☎ 03 9863 9414 ✉ manager@straightarrows.org.au 🌐 straightarrows.org.au
VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL (VAC)	VAC leads the fight against HIV/AIDS in Victoria and South Australia (see SAMESH listing p. 79) by providing care and support for people living with HIV, health promotion, and advocacy.	☎ 03 9865 6700 ✉ enquiries@vac.org.au 🌐 vac.org.au



WHOLE COMMUNITY

Community Education Sessions

PRIORITY GROUP

People from migrant and refugee communities

TYPE

Community education sessions

DURATION

Ongoing

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR PROGRAM

While most people in CALD communities have some knowledge about HIV, their knowledge about other blood borne viruses is very limited. Some people believe that HIV is not prevalent in Australia and there is a lot of scepticism about testing within these communities.

AIM

- Raise awareness about BBV and STI prevention, treatment and support.

ACTIVITIES

This program works with communities to develop culturally appropriate and gender sensitive education sessions on sexuality. Topics include sexuality, sexual diversity and healthy relationships.

The most common activity is group presentations and discussions, which sometimes involves interpreters. PowerPoint presentations are widely used and often include illustrations as most participants struggle with English. Most young people enjoy illustrations with cartoon characters. Music has also been used in some instances.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

So far the program has been a huge success. The number of organisations requesting community education sessions indicates that it has been well received by the different communities.

The program is expanding into regional areas such as Ballarat and Geelong and has also successfully been delivered in regional correctional facilities.

More importantly, the program has brought faith leaders on board, particularly from the Islamic and Christian communities. Previously it had been difficult reaching out to faith based communities.

Most English language schools now want the sexual health program to become a permanent feature of their school program.

PARTNERS

Local ethnic community associations, settlement services, English language schools, health services, women's health services, and tertiary institutions.

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS: a program of the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health - CEH)

Koula Neophytou

☎ 03 9418 9917

✉ koulan@ceh.org.au

🌐 ceh.org.au/mhss

Cultures of care: African communities in regional Victoria

PRIORITY GROUPS

African community, religious and youth leaders, key stakeholders and service providers

TYPE

Conference and discussion forum

DURATION

2007 – 2009

LOCATION

Regional Victoria

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

This project was an expansion of the regional project undertaken by the Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS) in Geelong, Ballarat and Colac in 2007.

In 2007 the MHSS was funded to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy with relevant local organisations to deal with the education and support needs of recently arrived communities being placed in these regional areas.

AIMS

- Increase local African communities' understanding of BBV and STI prevention and treatment options
- Create better pathways for members of local African communities to receive BBV/STI testing and treatment
- Work with African community leaders to develop skills in working with and responding to the Australian media
- Educate relevant health services to better respond to the needs of local African communities.

ACTIVITIES

In 2007–2008, the project was implemented in Geelong, Colac and Ballarat and in 2008–2009

it was part of a larger initiative in the Latrobe City area in Gippsland.

The project consisted of:

- Five culturally appropriate community education sessions, with separate sessions for men and women. Language sensitivity, health literacy and health beliefs were taken into account when planning course content
- Development of a media kit for community leaders
- Liaison and consultation with service providers
- Training for service providers in culturally appropriate BBV and sexual health promotion.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Community members were involved in focus groups and interviews to develop and design the project. They were also key partners in implementation.

PARTNERS

- Victorian Department of Health & Human Services
- Local health and settlement services

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Alison Coelho

☎ 03 9418 9909

✉ alisonc@ceh.org.au

🌐 (program summary): ceh.org.au/about/projects/cultures-of-care.html

Peer Education

PRIORITY GROUPS

People from migrant and refugee backgrounds

TYPE

Peer education program (training and resources)

DURATION

One community every 12 months

LOCATION

Melbourne

AIMS

- Work with high prevalence priority communities to build their capacity on BBV /STI prevention
- Create sustainable, culturally appropriate volunteer-based peer education, consultation and collaboration with CALD communities.

Objectives:

- Strengthen participating communities' capacity to address their health and social support needs
- Provide skills and knowledge to participants to enable them to reduce BBV/STI vulnerability at an individual level and within their friendship, family and community networks
- Achieve sufficient reach and connectedness within the target communities
- Support rather than duplicate existing networks of informal helping, and coordinate efforts with existing services and funded projects
- Adapt successful approaches from peer education programs in other BBV/STI settings with sensitivity to the different needs of the target population.

ACTIVITIES

- Recruit volunteers from the priority community to be trained as peer educators who:
 - recruit people from their communities as participants for multi-session peer education groups
 - Facilitate the group sessions
 - Work with the Peer Education Officer to undertake project activities and events.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROGRAM

The target group is involved in a focus group to determine important topics (other than BBVs/STIs) for the peer education sessions.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

This program has been formally evaluated by the Burnet Institute. Peer Educators unanimously stated the training and support they received enabled them to confidently deliver BBV/STI education to members of their communities, and that they gained both personally and professionally from the experience.

Community feedback was that the information people received at the sessions was relevant at both an individual and community level.

MCAN

The Burnet Institute recommended that the program be further developed and this culminated in the formation of the Multicultural Community Action Network (MCAN).

MCAN aims to bring people from various cultural backgrounds together so that they can advocate more effectively for their communities on sexual health issues. MCAN was launched in July 2015. MCAN will be consulted regarding the development of future resources.

PARTNERS

- Victorian Department of Health & Human Services
- Local health and settlement services

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Phuong Nguyen

☎ 03 9418 9913

✉ phuongn@ceh.org.au

🌐 ceh.org.au/mhss

MEN



Gay Asian Proud

PRIORITY GROUP

Gay Asian men residing in Melbourne on a permanent or temporary basis (including international students). The group is also open to members' non-Asian partners and friends.

TYPE

Social support group

DURATION

Ongoing since 1997

LOCATION

Melbourne Metropolitan area

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Gay Asian men are a unique population in the LGBTI community consisting of individuals from diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and religious

backgrounds. Despite this diversity, many gay Asian men experience sexual racism in the Australian gay sexual scene. Furthermore, many of these men also encounter homophobia from both their cultural communities and the wider Australian society.

As a result, some gay Asian men feel socially and sexually alienated, while at the same time having to deal with heteronormative family expectations and gender norms. Some have chosen to disassociate themselves from their cultural communities to embrace their sexuality, while others choose to fulfil their family's expectations while secretly engaging in same-sex sexual practices.

The lack of support services available for these men heightens feelings of marginalisation, with many Asian men unsure of their position in both the wider LGBT community and their cultural communities.

All of these factors can have a negative impact on their well-being. Low self-esteem, internalised prejudice, depression, anxiety and body image are some issues that affect gay Asian men, which can reduce their self-efficacy to communicate and practise safer-sex, thus increasing the chance of HIV and STI transmission.

AIMS

- Provide a supportive social environment for gay Asian men, their non-Asian partners and friends, to counter social isolation on the basis of race and sexuality
- Increase gay Asian men's confidence and self-acceptance by combating internalised prejudice, which can assist them to make informed decisions to maintain their health.

ACTIVITIES

Social connections enhance these men's sense of belonging and increase their self-esteem and self-worth. The Gay Asian Proud group

celebrates their sexuality and diverse cultural backgrounds. The group meets monthly in a supportive social environment. Activities include yum cha, dinner, picnics, going to the movies and festivals, and outings to gay commercial venues.

RESOURCES

Promotional postcards can be requested via the VAC website: vac.org.au/gay-asian-proud

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The group was instigated by gay Asian men as part of a VAC project for gay Asian men. Members are involved in brainstorming social activities and play an important role in welcoming and supporting new members.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The immediate outcome for members is feeling connected with other gay Asian men. This is especially valuable for those who are newly arrived in Australia.

Members have expressed that being in the group helps build their self-worth and self-confidence in being gay and Asian.

Members also appreciate the group's cultural sensitivity in celebrating their unique lived experiences relating to sexuality and cultural identity. Members feel that they belong to a community, which counters their feelings of isolation.

PARTNERS

- Yellow Kitties (a social support group for Asian lesbians and their non-Asian partners and friends)

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health & Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Victorian AIDS Council (VAC)

Budi Sudarto

☎ 03 9865 6700

✉ gap@vac.org.au

🌐 vac.org.au/gay-asian-proud

Talk Asian

PRIORITY GROUP

Gay Asian men, including international students and second and third generation Asian migrants

TYPE

Monthly workshop

DURATION

Ongoing since 2011

LOCATION

Melbourne Metropolitan area

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The Gay Asian Proud project identified that members would benefit from exploring issues such as sexual racism, interracial relationships, intercultural communication, coming out, and culturally specific information on sexual health.

These topics are rarely discussed in the wider LGBTI community, which remains dominated by middle-class Anglo Australians. Talk Asian provides a safe space for gay Asian men to discuss these issues.

AIM

Talk Asian aims to enhance gay Asian men's understanding of various issues specific to their lived experiences.

ACTIVITIES

Talk Asian meets monthly and is facilitated by the Gay Asian Proud convener using a format based on peer education and adult education principles. It provides a culturally specific learning environment to talk about safer sex for HIV and STI prevention.

The group discusses different topics each month. Learning occurs through interactions between members who share stories and wisdom based on their lived experiences.

RESOURCES

Promotional postcards can be requested via the VAC website: vac.org.au/talk-asian

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Gay Asian men are involved in brainstorming discussion topics.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Talk Asian increases gay Asian men's understanding of various topics relating to their sexuality and cultural backgrounds. Creating a safe environment for these men to talk about the intersections between race and sexuality helps build their confidence and self-esteem.

The group also provides a sense of community connection and attachment and empowers members to embrace their sexuality and cultures.

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health & Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Victorian AIDS Council (VAC)

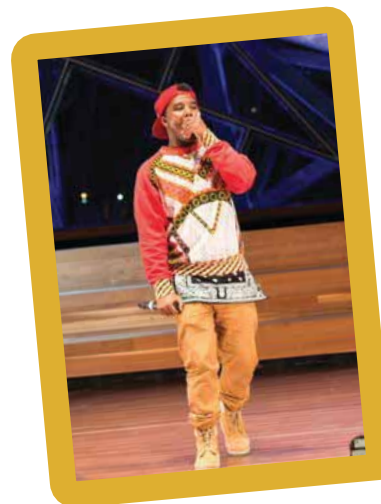
Budi Sudarto

☎ 03 9865 6700

✉ gap@vac.org.au

🌐 vac.org.au/talk-asian

YOUTH



Hip Hop & Health (H3)

PRIORITY GROUP

Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

Ongoing since 2008

LOCATION

State-wide

AIMS

The project was designed to:

- Increase HIV awareness and knowledge
- Encourage testing
- Reduce stigma.

ACTIVITIES

The Hip Hop & Health Project is a unique and innovative project which leverages the popularity of hip hop among young people and incorporates dance routines, music, street theatre and original rap lyrics for community sexual health promotion.

H3 began by engaging with African youth and has since expanded to include young people from other communities.

The H3 arts-based model is able to reach far and wide, empowering both participants and audiences to adopt preventative behaviours.

Program elements:

- Community-based workshops and rehearsals facilitated by MHSS community worker
- Musical, dance and street theatre performances at community events and festivals.

The core group performs at community events, festivals, workshops and takes every opportunity to promote sexual health. H3 mainly targets young people.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The H3 project has achieved good results in creating awareness among targeted participants and communities. Success with the project's initial engagement with African youth resulted in it being expanded to include other communities.

The full evaluation report is available at: ceh.org.au/about/projects/h3.html

PARTNERS

Young people who participated in the project.

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services



CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Alison Coelho
☎ 03 9418 9909
✉ alisonc@ceh.org.au
🌐 ceh.org.au/mhss

Sister2sister

PRIORITY GROUPS

African and Arabic speaking young women

TYPE

Community program

DURATION

2009

LOCATION

Melbourne and Geelong

AIM

- Improve sexual and reproductive health knowledge and STI prevention.

ACTIVITIES

The project aimed to employ a traditional approach in African communities of women sharing information, advice and guidance with each other as a strategy to address low levels of awareness about sexual and reproductive health among young women from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

Sister2sister group members took part in six after-school sessions. Each two hour session encompassed discussion and hands-on activities, including learning about the female reproductive system, BBVs/STIs, negotiating sexual relationships and sexual rights, and visiting relevant health services.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The program was evaluated and found to be extremely successful. Running the program clearly showed how group work is an effective strategy that encourages culturally diverse young women to be part of a process that allows their voices to be heard.

Evaluations also indicate that the group can be run with girls from different ethnicities and not necessarily based on one ethnic group.

The full evaluation report is available at: ceh.org.au/about/projects/sister2sister.html

PARTNERS

- Refugee Minor Program at the Victorian Department of Health
- The Centre for Multicultural Youth.

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Alison Coelho
☎ 03 9418 9909
✉ alisonc@ceh.org.au
🌐 ceh.org.au/mhss

MHSS Youth Ambassador Program

PRIORITY GROUP

Youth from migrant and refugee backgrounds

TYPE

Combination of activities and resources to engage young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds on STI/BBV prevention

DURATION

Ongoing program, began 2014

LOCATION

Victoria

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The rationale for this project is informed by the intersection of the following three factors:

- Increasing rates of STIs and BBVs among CALD communities in Australia
- The significant proportion of young people entering Australia through the Refugee and Humanitarian Program
- Limited sexual health literacy and opportunities for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

With incidences of HIV and other BBVs on the rise within Australia, it is vital that newly arrived communities are equipped with information to help them make positive health choices.

AIMS

Utilising a peer education model and drawing on the performing arts, in particular music, dance and spoken word, the project seeks to creatively engage young people from multicultural communities affected by, or vulnerable to, BBVs and STIs to:

- Strengthen BBV/STI prevention and achieve better health outcomes
- Reach and inform young people
- Insert BBV and STI related messages into lived cultural contexts.

A sustainable volunteer program has been established through the recruitment and training of Youth Ambassadors drawn from priority migrant and refugee communities.

Increasing the knowledge and skills of young role models facilitates leadership and increases their empowerment, thus enabling the sustained promotion of key health information messages among refugee and migrant young people and their communities.

ACTIVITIES

- An Induction Day to teach Youth Ambassadors about STI/BBV issues as well as healthy relationships and the law

- A WordPress blog on which Youth Ambassadors can share ideas and provide feedback on various STI/BBV issues within their group
- Identifying opportunities for Youth Ambassadors to engage in STI and BBV prevention activities and projects
- Youth Ambassadors developed lyrics for the music on H3 Express CD (see p. 109) which delivered their own interpretation of key STI and BBV prevention health messages.

Youth Ambassadors are supported by MHSS via workshops and training.

RESOURCES

H3 Express musical CD of young people singing about STI and BBV prevention.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Evaluation is currently underway.

PARTNERS

MHSS collaborates with various organisations as projects arise. Organisations have included: Phoenix Youth Centre, Maribyrnong Council and Hepatitis Victoria.

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Hope Mathumbu,
Community Engagement Officer
☎ 03 9418 9916
✉ hopen@ceh.org.au
🌐 ceh.org.au

FAITH LEADERS

Hand in hand

A guide for spiritual leaders to prevent HIV transmission and eliminate HIV stigma within Australian migrant and refugee communities

PRIORITY GROUP

Spiritual leaders

TYPE

Tip Sheet

LOCATION

Australia-wide

REASONS FOR THE RESOURCE

- Concern that many spiritual leaders and faith community members do not know about HIV or their vulnerability to the disease in Australia
- Shame and guilt about living with HIV or taking care of people with HIV
- Spiritual leaders have expressed a need to be informed on HIV and other BBVs, and for support in starting the conversation around HIV prevention and eliminating stigma in their congregations
- Representatives from the BBV/STI service sector have expressed a need for more partnership initiatives with faith-based institutions in preventing HIV, providing care and support to people with HIV and their families, and eliminating HIV-related stigma.

AIMS

Empowering spiritual leaders to:

- Raise awareness and improve accuracy of knowledge about HIV
- Break the silence about HIV within communities
- Take a stand against HIV stigma
- Provide spiritual counselling, compassion and support
- Partner with others.

ACTIVITIES

- Meetings to develop and refine the tip sheet
- Sought spiritual leaders' endorsement
- Distribution to faith-based institutions in Victoria and at key events, e.g. AIDS 2014
- Published online
- Presentation about the process of developing Tip Sheets at AIDS 2014 by Samuel Muchoki.

RESOURCES

Tip Sheet can be downloaded at: ceh.org.au/our-programs/our_programs_mhss/mshn

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The resource was developed as a result of issues raised by spiritual leaders and representatives from several faith communities were involved in the development process. The MSHN Hand in Hand Forum (see listing p. 116) provided an important opportunity for input on an initial draft.

PARTNERS

- CatholicCare
- Buddhist Council of Victoria
- Islamic Council of Victoria
- Anglican Church

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Alison Coelho

☎ 03 9418 9909

✉ alisonc@ceh.org.au

🌐 ceh.org.au

SEX WORKERS

RhED

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD sex workers

TYPE

Outreach, peer-support, education and health services

DURATION

Ongoing program since 2000

LOCATION

State-wide

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There is a lack of translated resources and culturally appropriate programs for CALD sex workers, although they are a major demographic in the Victorian sex work community.

AIMS

- Provide relevant health promotion and support services to sex workers; improve their health and wellbeing; and minimise risk
- Use a community participation model to ensure RhED is responsive to the needs of sex workers
- Advocate for systemic and legal changes to improve the health and wellbeing of sex workers, including:
 - › Reducing discrimination and violence against sex workers
 - › Increasing the social inclusion of sex workers
 - › Promoting equitable access to health and other relevant services for sex workers

- Develop and strengthen key partnerships that support RhED to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for sex workers

ACTIVITIES

All of RhED's services and resources are available to CALD sex workers, including: outreach, peer-support, industry relevant referrals, community education and training, free safer sex supplies, and the *Ugly Mugs* guide for dealing with problematic clients.

RhED's CALD-specific services are:

- Translated resources
- Community interpreters available in Thai, Mandarin and Korean.

RESOURCES

Resources in appropriate community languages are provided during outreach and are available on the RhED website.

Chinese:

sexworker.org.au/interpreter-services/chinese

Thai:

sexworker.org.au/interpreter-services/thai

Korean:

sexworker.org.au/interpreter-services/korean

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

RhED preferences the employment of peer bilingual staff for the CALD sex worker program where possible. All translated materials are checked by CALD sex workers prior to distribution.

In 2012 RhED conducted a consultation with migrant and multicultural sex workers to identify their needs and wants. The resulting document, the *Migrant and Multicultural Sex Worker Report 2012*, guides RhED's provision of services.

Report available at:

sexworker.org.au/publications-and-resources/rhed-resources

PARTNERS

- Inner South Community Health (ISCH)
- Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

RhED

Mardi Kennedy, Diversity Portfolio

☎ 1800 458 752

✉ mkennedy@ischs.org.au

🌐 sexworker.org.au

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Multicultural Sexual Health Network (MSHN)

PRIORITY GROUP

People who work with people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, including doctors, settlement workers, interpreters and academics

TYPE

Forum

DURATION

Ongoing program, three times a year, since April 2013

LOCATION

Two forums in Melbourne metro area and one forum in regional Victoria each year

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Through consultations with stakeholders in 2012 and 2013 the Multicultural Health and Support Services (MHSS) strategic planning process identified the need for more cross sector collaboration, service coordination and advocacy to address the complexities of sexual health and wellbeing for people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

AIMS

MSHN brings together stakeholders from different sectors—such as education, employment, resettlement, housing and health—to discuss emerging sexual health issues and strategies to ensure better health and wellbeing for people from refugee, asylum seeker and migrant student backgrounds. The network will act as a hub for information sharing, referral, enhanced service coordination, treatment model development and multi-sectoral advocacy.

ACTIVITIES

There have been six MSHN forums:

- An increased intake, a better response: addressing the health needs of greater numbers of refugees and asylum seekers
- The other side of the rainbow: same sex attraction within culturally & linguistically diverse communities
- Hand in hand: Partnering with spiritual and community leaders in preventing HIV transmission in migrant and refugee communities. The outcome of this forum was a tip sheet for spiritual leaders (see p. 112)
- After AIDS 2014: Stepping up the pace in preventing HIV transmission in migrant and refugee communities
- Sexual health and blood borne viruses in Ballarat
- Taking action on hepatitis B.

RESOURCES

Forum reports and the Tip Sheet for spiritual leaders can be downloaded from: ceh.org.au/our-programs/our_programs_mhss/mshn

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The idea of establishing MSHN originated with stakeholders and they continue to contribute suggestions for forum content.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The project is ongoing and constantly evolving. Evaluation sheets are collected at the end of each forum to gauge participants' responses and receive feedback on how to improve future forums.

Each forum includes presentations by specialists in relevant fields, as well as small group work, which enables participants from different sectors to share their perspectives on

the issues presented at the forum. This is a very effective aspect of the project because it brings people together who may not normally have opportunities to hear each other's viewpoints.

The issues MSHN covers are multifaceted and group work allows workers to gain a better understanding of issues that they are not exposed to in their daily work.

PARTNERS

Partners are listed and acknowledged in the program reports at:

ceh.org.au/our-programs/our_programs_mhss/mshn

FUNDED BY

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

CONTACT DETAILS

Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS)

Rebecca Reeves,
Community Projects Officer

☎ 03 9418 9920

✉ mhss@ceh.org.au

🌐 ceh.org.au/our-programs/our_programs_mhss/mshn



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
EMO COMMUNITY SERVICES (ECOS)	<p>ECOS provides a wide range of services to humanitarian entrants including training and consultancy, humanitarian settlement support, disability services, and health programs.</p> <p>ECOS is an active participant in HIV initiatives through AFAO's African Reference Group and in WA with the MMRC and WAAC, including the 'Stigma ends with Love' HIV awareness film, the campaign to End HIV in WA and the WA HIV soccer tournament.</p>	<p>Phil Bilombele 📞 0470 601 260 ✉️ ceo@ecos.org.au 🌐 ecos.org.au</p>
'FROM NOTHING TO SOMETHING' MOVEMENT (FNFS)	<p>FNFS aims to engage young people in positive experiences (such as music, drama, sport and social responsibility projects) that will result in social, academic and personal growth.</p>	<p>Rachdar Abubakar Giraneza 📞 0405 922 970 ✉️ admin@fnfs.com.au 🌐 fnfs.com.au</p>
METROPOLITAN MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE WA (MMRC)	<p>MMRC aims to build community capacity and promote the wellbeing of refugees, humanitarian entrants and migrants and their communities in the Perth metropolitan region.</p>	<p>Beth Chigwada, Sharing Stories Coordinator 📞 08 9345 5755 ✉️ beth.chigwada@mmrcwa.org.au 🌐 mmrcwa.org.au</p>
SEXUAL HEALTH AND BLOOD-BORNE VIRUS APPLIED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION NETWORK (SIREN)	<p>SIREN aims to promote and stimulate opportunities for collaboration between WA sexual health and BBV services, policymakers and researchers to facilitate evidence-based practice. SIREN provides project-focused research and evaluation support.</p>	<p>Roanna Lobo, SiREN Project Manager 📞 08 9266 1101 ✉️ siren@curtin.edu.au 🌐 siren.org.au</p>
WA AIDS COUNCIL (WAAC)	<p>WAAC's mission is to minimise the impact and further transmission of HIV, other BBVs and STIs. WAAC provides a wide range of services related to the prevention of HIV, and the treatment, care and support of people living with HIV.</p>	<p>Ruth Wernham, Community Development Team Leader 📞 08 9482 0000 ✉️ rwernham@waacids.com 🌐 waacids.com.au</p>

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Community mobilisation – the Ambassador Program

PRIORITY GROUP

Members and leaders of CALD communities in WA

TYPE

Combination of activities

DURATION

Ongoing since 2014

LOCATION

Perth metropolitan area

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There is a great need for a paradigm shift from community exclusion to community inclusion in all stages of project planning, implementation and evaluation. Evidence analysed by the WA AIDS Council (available on request) shows that projects that are developed by working with community groups are more successful than those made 'for' them because people are able to match their culture, language and traditions with health education.

AIMS

- Increase health literacy, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around priority HIV, sexual health and risk reduction strategies among Community Ambassadors
- Increase community involvement and ownership of HIV prevention initiatives and sexual health promotion
- Increase community capacity to organise and run sexual health projects.

ACTIVITIES

The Ambassador program works towards upskilling individuals with knowledge and equipping them with the tools they need to become community champions for HIV awareness. The program:

- Builds partnerships with community groups such as Miss Africa Perth. The Miss Africa pageant activities encourage contestants to have a positive influence in their communities and many have become advocates for particular social issues. Our partnership with Miss Africa Perth provides opportunities for young women to become involved with positive change for HIV awareness
- Provides opportunities for Ambassadors to enhance their knowledge through training, workshops and forums
- Creates opportunities for Ambassadors to build on skills. For example, the first Ambassador (May-Lin from Zimbabwe) wanted to improve her public speaking skills so she was given the chance to organise, host and deliver a speech at a community forum on HIV
- Seeks complementary community grants to support Ambassadors with funding for venue hire and other resources needed for HIV projects
- Organises scholarships for Ambassadors to attend relevant seminars and conferences.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The target group is involved in all stages of program development. They steer the direction of all projects.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Evaluation is ongoing. It is already evident that community mobilisation is an effective strategy for improving sexual health outcomes.

Ambassador ownership of the program has resulted in communities becoming more receptive to health promotion projects. They also have been effective in increasing the program reach into various priority groups.

PARTNERS

- Miss Africa Perth

FUNDED BY

WA Health Department

WA AIDS Council

CONTACT DETAILS

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

Beth Chigwada

☎ 08 9345 5755

✉ beth.chigwada@mmrcwa.org.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/pages/Miss-Africa-Perth/175980242461800](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miss-Africa-Perth/175980242461800)

WA AIDS Council

Ruth Wernham, Team Leader

☎ 08 9482 0000

✉ rwernham@waids.com

Ethiopian radio program

PRIORITY GROUP

Ethiopian community

TYPE

Community radio program

DURATION

2011

REASON FOR PROGRAM

Radio is a great setting for information dissemination because the literacy level of the audience is not a restricting factor, and information can be pre-recorded and translated.

Another advantage of radio is that the audience passively receives an HIV awareness intervention. There is no need to bring a group of people to the same place at the same time.

The message is readily available anywhere as long as they are tuned into the station.

An example of the success of radio messages about HIV in Thailand can be found here: avert.org/hiv-aids-thailand.htm

AIM

- Provide up to date HIV information in Amharic to Perth's Ethiopian community.

ACTIVITIES

Ten broadcasts over 10 weeks of 10 minutes duration each. Topics of interest were identified and the text translated into Amharic by the Perth Ethiopian Radio Service.

Topics included:

- HIV facts
- Pregnancy
- Testing & treatment
- Impact of culture
- HIV & the law
- Immigration issues
- Stigma & discrimination
- Positive people's stories.

The program also broadcast content from the Amharic translation of AFAO's Top Tips booklet, and promoted the existence of the booklet (see p. 17).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

An Ethiopian man who had completed HIV training with WAAC and MMRC worked on translating and developing the content of the broadcasts.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Evaluation indicated that this strategy was not very cost effective. It was expensive to broadcast on this particular station and difficult to determine the reach of the broadcasts.

Due to the high cost, this project was not continued; however, such a project could be made more cost effective, for example by reducing the broadcasts from 10 to two minutes, which would radically reduce the cost.

FUNDED BY

WA Health
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)

CONTACT DETAILS

WA AIDS Council
Ruth Wernham, Team Leader
☎ 08 9482 0000
✉ rwernham@waaid.com.au
🌐 waaid.com.au
Perth Ethiopian Radio
Girma Molla
☎ 08 9275 5664
✉ girma.molla@gmail.com

World AIDS Day event

PRIORITY GROUPS

CALD communities living in WA, with a focus on young people. Most people who have attended are of Sub-Saharan African background

TYPE

World AIDS Day event

DURATION

Early December, since 2011

LOCATION

Perth

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

In the early years World AIDS Day (WAD) activities were aimed at raising awareness of HIV but as communities took increasing ownership of the planning process, the event has evolved to become more celebratory.

It is an opportunity for organisations to thank the various people and communities who have dedicated time to be involved in HIV awareness projects. It is also a chance to showcase and share new resources, brands like LOVE GAME (see p. 124), and educational films the community has produced.

AIMS

- Acknowledge and celebrate community contributions to HIV awareness and other related projects
- Increase community awareness of related services and projects
- Strengthen rapport with community leaders and groups.

ACTIVITIES

In 2014, WAD was an evening event with multicultural food and performances to launch the 'Powerful Women' motivational film, the 'Story of Lola' short film and the 'Sharing Stories' HIV Calendar.

There were performances by the Youth led 'From Nothing to Something' movement (FNTS) and the Sharing Stories drama group (see p. 118). We also distributed World AIDS Day gift bags with resources, referrals, safe sex packs, 2015 Calendars and freebies.

These activities are typical of previous WAD events. In 2015 the planning committee is organising a LOVE GAME red carpet event which will focus on addressing stigma and celebrating Ambassadors (see p. 120).

RESOURCES

Powerful women motivational film:
[youtube.com/watch?v=WeLJld9hLpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeLJld9hLpo)

Story of Lola – order from MMRC
(details below)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A planning committee is involved in every step of planning the event. The 2015 committee is made up of individuals and groups from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya and Burundi.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Evaluation has highlighted the importance of acknowledging people's contributions. People were very thankful to be recognised and celebrated for their hard work and passion for HIV awareness.

The event has also enabled MMRC to establish contact with new community leaders and groups that have since become involved in other projects.

PARTNERS

- WA AIDS Council
- Youth led movement FNTS

FUNDED BY

WA Health Department
WA AIDS Council
Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

CONTACT DETAILS

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC)
Beth Chigwada, Sharing Stories Coordinator
☎ 08 9345 5755
✉ beth.chigwada@mmrcwa.org.au
🌐 mmrcwa.org.au/sharing-stories



MEN

LOVE GAME - HIV awareness football tournament

PRIORITY GROUPS

CALD groups and communities. Most people attending were from Nigeria, Ghana, Congo and Iraq

TYPE

Sporting Event

DURATION

One day, July 2015

LOCATION

Mirrabooka, Western Australia

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There was great demand from some Sub-Saharan African community groups to use football (soccer) as a safe and popular way to communicate messages about testing and treatment.

Football breaks down cultural and language barriers, uniting people and addressing taboo subjects in an appropriate way. An in-depth investigation into soccer as a successful tool for HIV education is available on request.

AIMS

- Increase health literacy, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around priority HIV, sexual health and risk reduction strategies among Sub-Saharan African communities living in WA
- Increase community involvement and ownership of HIV prevention initiatives
- Increase community capacity to organise and run their own sexual health projects

ACTIVITIES

The football tournament was organised by a planning committee made up of various African community members and groups. They designed the LOVE GAME branding and messages as well as managing tournament logistics and recruiting teams to compete.

The committee also organised a LOVE GAME VIP training event for captains and coaches. This event was the official launch of the LOVE GAME brand and an opportunity for coaches to receive information about the tournament. HIV and relevant sexual health information was also delivered as well as an explanation as to why football was selected to promote HIV awareness.

The WA AIDS Council provided the logistical and financial support and resources needed to run the tournament.

RESOURCES

The LOVE GAME brand was designed and displayed on water bottles, wrist bands and uniforms. Branding included these key messages:

- Test often – treat early – stay safe
- Know your status
- Safety + Pleasure + Respect = Healthy relationships.

A promotional video was developed to explain why football was selected for HIV awareness: youtu.be/Mc239Hi8xs8

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The target group is involved in all stages of program development. A LOVE GAME planning committee made up of culturally diverse community members steered the direction of the entire tournament.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The best aspect of this project was the community enthusiasm to create a sporting event that promotes sexual health.

Key points from evaluation included high LOVE GAME recognition among the target group and a recommendation to use this branding for other events such as World AIDS Day. Evaluation also recommended seeking additional funding to extend the reach of the project.

There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community groups who attended. Many asked when the next one was scheduled.

More evaluation details available on request.

PARTNERS

- ECOS (community group)
- Youth led 'From Nothing to Something' movement (FNTS)
- LOVE GAME planning committee
- Football West

FUNDED BY

WA Health Department
WA AIDS Council

CONTACT DETAILS

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

Beth Chigwada

☎ 08 9345 5755

✉ beth.chigwada@mmrcwa.org.au

🌐 lovegame2015.blogspot.com.au/p/love-game.html

WA AIDS Council

Ruth Wernham, Team Leader

☎ 08 9482 0000

✉ rwernham@waids.com



YOUTH



Sharing Stories Project

PRIORITY GROUP

Young people in new and emerging migrant communities. The program is currently engaging with the South Sudanese, Congolese, and Sierra Leone communities and slowly extending to reach other groups.

TYPE

Combination of activities and resources

DURATION

Ongoing since 2009

LOCATION

Metropolitan Perth

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There is a great need for a program that addresses sexual health and BBVs in creative ways that are sensitive towards diverse religious, cultural and traditional backgrounds. An extensive rationale is available on request.

AIMS

- Create innovative ways to sensitively communicate about sexual health and related issues
- Break through cultural barriers to communicate sexual health and BBV education, support and referral pathways and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with STIs
- Encourage knowledge sharing within communities
- Strengthen partnerships with community leaders
- Support peer educators.

ACTIVITIES

Sharing Stories consists of a suite of programs that include:

- A Youth Theatre Ensemble who create and perform sexual health educational plays and films
- A Family Drama Group which creates films and culturally appropriate resources aimed at raising awareness and breaking through the stigma associated with HIV
- A youth program run by and for young women of CALD backgrounds to explore relationships and sexual health and strengthen them in areas such as self-esteem and confidence so that they are empowered to make healthy decisions
- HIV community educator training that equips community members with skills

and knowledge to deliver culturally appropriate HIV education in their community

- Informative educational sessions about BBVs as part of orientation sessions for new arrivals with Humanitarian Settlement Services
- Informative and culturally appropriate workshops as requested by settlement grant programs or other settlement services.

RESOURCES

A range of sexual health films can be ordered through the sharing stories team or accessed online: mmrcwa.org.au/sharing-stories

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Members from the target group have been employed to work on this project and many people have been included in community consultations.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

A particular highlight of this project is the success in supporting community champions to be actively involved in promoting the sexual health and wellbeing of their communities. A number of young CALD participants in the project are now employed as Sharing Stories staff. This is a direct result of having participated –they now have the skills and knowledge required to lead the programs.

In 2014, one of the participants won a WA Youth Award and was nominated for a national youth award. The Youth Theatre Ensemble also performed at the 20th International AIDS conference in 2014 and at the WA Fringe World Festival 2015.

Partnership with the Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN) at Curtin University has enabled Sharing Stories to contribute to the growing body of evidence required in the area of sexual health and mobile populations.

Extensive evaluation available on request.

PARTNERS

- Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN)
- Your Cultural Lens reference group

FUNDED BY

WA Health Department

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

CONTACT DETAILS

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

Beth Chigwada, Sharing Stories Coordinator

☎ 08 9345 5755

✉ beth.chigwada@mmrcwa.org.au

🌐 mmrcwa.org.au/sharing-stories



SEX WORKERS

Magenta

PRIORITY GROUP

CALD sex workers

TYPE

Peer education, Outreach, peer support, education and health services

DURATION

Ongoing since 2000

LOCATION

State-wide WA with regional outreach

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

There is a lack of translated resources and culturally appropriate programs for CALD sex workers, although they are a key demographic in the WA sex work community.

AIMS

- Reduce service barriers for sex workers from CALD backgrounds
- Operate within a harm-minimisation framework
- Promote the health and safety of sex workers through health promotion, community education
- Provide high quality services that respond to the diverse and changing needs of people associated with the sex industry.

ACTIVITIES

All of Magenta's services are available to CALD sex workers, including outreach, peer-support, industry relevant referrals, community education and training and low cost safer sex supplies.

Magenta's CALD specific services are:

- Translated sexual health resources
- Simplified Chinese translation of *Ugly Mugs* (a pamphlet about problematic clients)
- When possible, interpreters are available at Magenta's weekly onsite sexual health clinic (Mandarin, Cantonese, and occasionally Thai).

RESOURCES

Sexual health resources in community languages are provided during outreach and are available on the Magenta website:

Chinese magenta.org.au/chinese

Thai magenta.org.au/thai

Vietnamese magenta.org.au/vietnamese

Korean magenta.org.au/korean

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Magenta preferences the employment of peer bilingual staff for the CALD sex worker program and employs affirmative action in community consultations to ensure equal representation of CALD and non-CALD sex workers.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Positive feedback from informal evaluation via word of mouth from sex workers affirms the value and need for culturally appropriate, bilingual peer education.

PARTNERS

- Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association
- Sexual and Reproductive Health WA (SRHWA)

FUNDED BY

WA Department of Health

CONTACT DETAILS

Magenta

Josie Rayson, Acting Manager

☎ 08 9328 1387

✉ Josie.Rayson@magenta.org.au

🌐 magenta.org.au

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Sexual health promotion for international students

PRIORITY GROUP

International students aged 18-25 attending university in WA

TYPE

Combination of activities

DURATION

Ongoing since January 2014

LOCATION

Perth metropolitan area

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Evidence shows that international students are likely to have unmet needs for sexual health and relationships education.

A range of behavioural factors need addressing such as: low condom use, assumptions about safety, confusion regarding abstinence, and problem use of alcohol and other drugs. Environmental factors such as mobility related issues, lack of appropriate health services and university lifestyle also play a role.

An extensive literature review is available on request.

AIMS

- Increase health literacy, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around priority HIV, sexual health and risk reduction strategies among international students
- Increase awareness of and access to sexual health clinics and resources that provide information and services in culturally competent ways

- Increase international students' understanding regarding individual rights and health responsibilities.

ACTIVITIES

- Outreach at international student festival, April 2015 – an estimated 5,000 students attended
- Established partnership with STA Travel to promote blood aware and sexual health messages for students travelling home in semester break
- Distributed safe sex packs with condoms, lube and sexual health information
- Set up interactive sexual health booths during orientation and multicultural weeks at Murdoch University
- Conducted sexual health education sessions during orientation for new international students at Murdoch University
- Participation in Health Pit Stops at UWA University College (for students living on campus).

RESOURCES

The Sex in other cities campaign developed by the WA AIDS Council (WAAC) gives travellers information about safe tattooing and piercing and sexual health. It encourages travellers, including international students, to get tested before and after travelling. Contact WAAC to order a brochure or visit sexinothercities.com.au.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Murdoch University International Student Liaison Officer was consulted regarding feedback from students about health issues; however, there was limited student involvement in the development of the program.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Providing information about privacy and confidentiality standards in Australia was found to be the most valuable aspect of this project. This empowered students to confidently book a private and confidential STI test, many of whom had previously been afraid that the University or the Department of Immigration would discover they had been for STI screening. It is recommended that there be more student involvement in program planning in future. An extensive evaluation is available on request.

PARTNERS

- STA Travel
- Murdoch University
- UWA University

FUNDED BY

WA Health Department
WA AIDS Council

CONTACT DETAILS

WA AIDS Council

Ruth Wernham, Team Leader
☎ 08 9482 0000
✉ rwernham@waaid.com
🌐 sexinothercities.com.au

UWA International Student Health and Wellbeing Fact Sheets

PRIORITY GROUP

International students at the University of Western Australia

TYPE

Fact sheets

DURATION

Ongoing

LOCATION

Perth

REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

Staff and students at the University identified that international students were unaware of campus health services, including the University Medical Centre's comprehensive STI and HIV testing and prevention services.

AIMS

The resource aims to:

- Promote campus sexual health services
- Increase testing and treatment for STIs, hepatitis and HIV
- Give students comprehensive information on staying healthy and thriving while studying and where to access information and support. This assists international students' transition to UWA by helping them to navigate health services and reducing barriers to access
- Improve the quality of the international students' transition and experience by:
 - › Introducing them to the concepts of healthy relationships, safer sex and sexual consent; and
 - › Giving them information about cultural norms, relevant health issues and support services.

ACTIVITIES

There are six fact sheets in the series, focusing on key health areas:

- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Doctors and Hospitals
- Medications, the Dentist and Allied Health Services
- Emotional Wellbeing
- General Health and Wellbeing
- Sexual Health.

This resource acts as a 'one stop shop' for international students, linking them with a holistic range of health services on and off campus. The Fact Sheets were introduced in 2015, and have been accessed by over 4,000 international students both online and in print form.

The content was adapted, with permission, from Fact Sheets developed by the South Australian Department for Health and Ageing (see p. 94).

RESOURCES

The fact sheets are available in hard copy from campus health and support services or can be downloaded from:

internationalstudenthealth.uwa.edu.au

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Content was adapted for a Western Australian context by the UWA Health Promotion Unit through consultation with students from the UWA Student Guild International Student Service and Student Guild Queer Department. Feedback was also sought from staff at the UWA International Centre.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The resources answer many frequently asked questions related to health services on campus and around Perth. Anecdotal feedback from students and staff has been positive. The series is being evaluated to measure outcomes and identify how it can be expanded.

PARTNERS

- SA Department for Health and Ageing
- SA Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
- UWA Student Guild International Student Service

FUNDED BY

The University of Western Australia (UWA)

CONTACT DETAILS

UWA Health Promotion Unit

Tricia Wylde, Manager of Health Promotion

☎ 08 6488 1734

✉ healthpromotion@uwa.edu.au

🌐 fitforstudy.uwa.edu.au

UWA International Student Health and Wellbeing Workshops

PRIORITY GROUP

International students enrolled at the University of Western Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (previously AusAID) Program

TYPE

Workshops included as part of the University orientation

DURATION

Biannually in January and June, ongoing, began in 2006

LOCATION

Perth

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Staff and students at the University identified that international students were unaware of campus health services, including the University Medical Centre's comprehensive STI and HIV testing and prevention services.

The workshops were introduced to enable international students to explore sexual health issues and inform them about relevant services.

AIM

- Provide comprehensive information on staying healthy and thriving while studying and where to access information and support.

ACTIVITIES

Two hour workshops are conducted twice a year by Health Promotion Unit staff during the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade student orientation program. The program is practical, involving discussion and group activities.

The workshops assist students' transition to UWA by helping them to navigate health services, reducing barriers to access and increasing their understanding of Australian cultural norms, healthy relationships, and

practising safer sex.

The workshops also explore issues related to alcohol and other drugs, culture shock and mental health.

In 2015, students representing 20 countries attended the workshops.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Focus groups and surveys were conducted with international students prior to the workshop's introduction at UWA. The workshops are evaluated each year and adjusted based on participant feedback and reported trends at the University.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The workshops answer many frequently asked questions related to health services on campus and around Perth.

According to participants, the workshops are 'easy to understand', 'relevant' and 'well presented'. Students have also reported that 'it is really good to know that there's a group of people caring for and providing support to international students at UWA'.

PARTNER

- UWA Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT)

FUNDED BY

The University of WA

CONTACT DETAILS

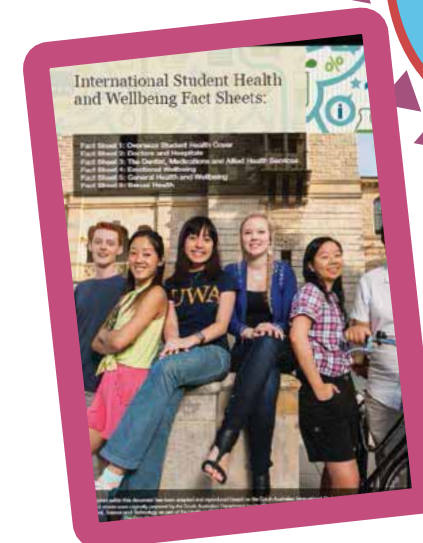
University of Western Australia's Health Promotion Unit

Tricia Wylde, Manager of Health Promotion

☎ 08 6488 1734

✉ healthpromotion@uwa.edu.au

🌐 fitforstudy.uwa.edu.au



SERVICE PROVIDERS

HIV training for professionals

PRIORITY GROUP

Professionals who work with migrants, such as immigration agents and settlement grant officers

TYPE

Training

DURATION

Approximately eight hours, either as a one day course or four 2 hour sessions

LOCATION

Metropolitan Perth

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The WA AIDS Council (WAAC) has built a strong rapport with community leaders and members from a range of cultures, religions and backgrounds. The main focus of WAAC's community engagement is capacity development for key groups, networks and individuals so that they are better able to influence appropriate responses to HIV, sexual health and related health issues in their communities.

Training for professionals and service providers is conducted when requested.

WAAC has established a strong relationship with 'champions' through our community development work. We have found that cold-calling agencies to offer training is not effective; however, champions who are already connected with WAAC are usually committed to addressing HIV/sexual health issues and will identify a need and advocate within their service for the training.

AIMS

Community development goals:

- Increase social influence and cultural norms supportive of reduced stigma around HIV and related issues
- Increase community understanding regarding individual rights and health responsibilities.

Training goals:

- Raise awareness of HIV related facts and 'bust myths' about outdated information
- Raise awareness of cultural influences on sexual health and service provision and challenge participants' 'cultural lens' in regards to sexual health
- Empower participants with accurate information, skills and understanding to become HIV educators in their workplace and communities.

ACTIVITIES

The training is based on existing professional development training programs, which are tailored to meet the needs of the specific group or agency.

- One day training session was conducted for 25 immigration agents in 2012
- Four 2 hour training sessions were conducted for 12 settlement grant officers in 2014.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The 2014 sessions were evaluated and showed positive results, including improved understanding of HIV and sexual health as well as broader community benefits, as highlighted by participants' statements:

'Great training and information that can change and shape people's lives.'

'As Settlement Grant Officers we need to educate our clients about HIV/AIDS – we need to educate our communities as well as our families.'

'The information was very helpful and it really helped me in my personal and my work life, as I can apply the information to both.'

FUNDED BY

WA AIDS Council (WAAC)

CONTACT DETAILS

WA AIDS Council

Ruth Wernham,
Community Development Team Leader

☎ 08 9482 0000

✉ rwernham@waaids.com

🌐 waaids.com



Your Cultural Lens

An online training resource in cross-cultural communication for sexual health and blood borne viruses

PRIORITY GROUP

Clinical and community based health professionals and people working with CALD communities

TYPE

Online, video based interactive training

DURATION

Ongoing since 2014

LOCATION

Online with face to face training available in Perth

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Extensive community consultation and a needs assessment established a strong need for medical and allied health professionals to adopt cultural humility when working with CALD patients or clients.

Cultural humility focuses on the development of respectful partnerships. It requires GPs and other professionals to commit to self-reflection and cultural inquisitiveness.

A strong rationale for the training is available on request.

AIMS

Increase the number of health professionals who have completed 'Your Cultural lens' and are able to communicate sexual health messages to people in a culturally sensitive way by adopting the following framework:

- Know your own culture – recognise you are looking through the lens of your own culture
- Embrace differences – avoiding stereotypes and assumptions about others is the key to opening up a communication exchange
- Cultural exchange – be curious about what you can learn from another and what they can offer you to improve cultural competency

- Provide diversity – develop a diverse range of communication styles and policies to support different pathways for culturally competent health care.

ACTIVITIES

A website was developed which leads the user through videos of common healthcare provision scenarios. The user can choose from two different solutions for each scenario and having chosen, information is provided as to which solution is the most culturally competent, and why. The website also has suggestions for how to adopt a more culturally sensitive approach and links to further learning resources and services.

RESOURCES

Your Cultural Lens online training:
mmrcwa.org.au/ycl

An estimated 40 minutes is required to complete the training; however users can log on and off to finish in their own time.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Several community consultation sessions provided evidence which shaped the content of each training module.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Evaluation is ongoing. However informal feedback suggests that the training has been successful in improving cultural sensitivity among health professionals.

PARTNERS

- Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN)
- Your Cultural Lens reference group

FUNDED BY

WA Health Department
Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

CONTACT DETAILS

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre

Golda Signal,
Training Support Officer for
Sharing Stories project

☎ 08 9345 5755

✉ golda.signal@mmrcwa.org.au

🌐 mmrcwa.org.au/ycl



NOTES



Australian Federation of
AIDS Organisations
PO Box 51 Newtown
NSW 2042

www.afao.org.au

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