

Let's Talk Culture | What are the needs of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse young people in WA & which services fulfil those needs?

22 June 2017 Report | Health Consumers' Council (HCC)

The Seminar was Chaired and Facilitated by Michael Lenney (Mental Health Commission) and Dr Alex Main respectively.

Speakers

Majok Wutchok - Founder of the South Sudan Public Health Forum Inc.

Beth Franca - Cross Cultural Clinician for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Majok and Beth gave excellent and informative presentations on the topic, one from a community perspective and one from a practitioner's. They were well received by the audience who were then asked to discuss their thoughts and make recommendations regarding CaLD youth and mental health services. The recommendations will be passed on to relevant policy bodies and agencies and shared via HCC's website. People were also asked to identify potential sources of funding for their recommendation/s.

Recommendations

These were many and varied however several common themes emerged which are summarised here:

- Comprehensive cultural competency training for providers/practitioners
- Utilise communities to gain feedback regarding services and service provision
- The provision of CALD/refugee specific training for providers with a focus on youth (not generic training as currently offered)
- Increase and develop community engagement to inform practice
- Increase and develop appropriate community education
- Increased provision of resources that empower CALD communities
- Funding support services within schools e.g. Social Inclusion and Liaison Officers
- Increase collaboration between service providers to develop greater support strategies
- Develop flexible service provision strategies to accommodate differing needs e.g. off-site, after hours
- Increased access to information and resources for workers

Suggested Funding Sources

People identified several funding sources to enable recommendations to be made manifest:

- The Federal Government
- The Mental Health Commission
- The Department of Education
- Local Government
- The Department of Health
- The WA State Government
- WAPHA
- The Office of Multicultural Interests

- The Department of Corrective Services
- State Forensic Mental Health Service
- The Police Department
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Rationales for Recommendations

People were asked to provide reasons for their recommendations, again some common threads became apparent. Rationales included:

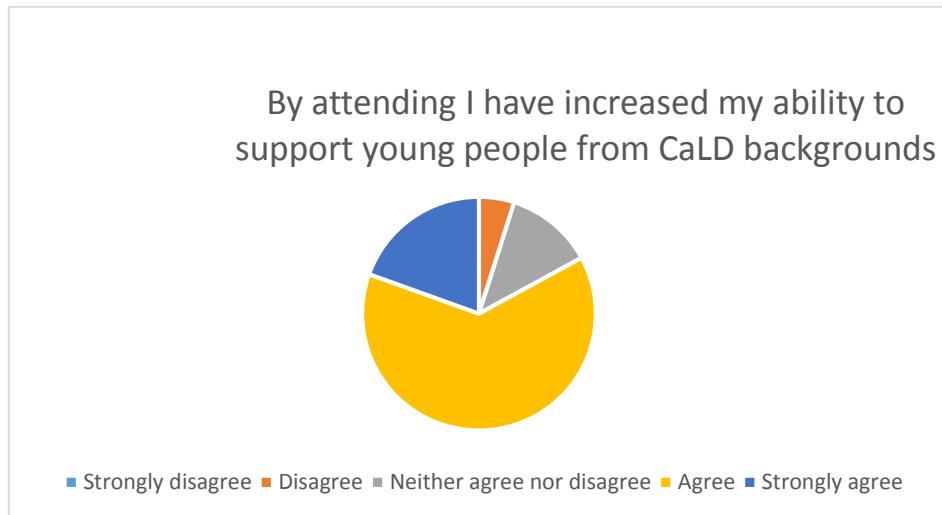
- To increase knowledge and understanding of services within CALD communities
- To increase and improve community engagement, trust and capacity
- Workers in education and health struggle to find the best support for individuals and families from CALD/refugee backgrounds
- We need to provide services that are relevant and evidence- based
- We need to address stigma and normalise difficulties to increase the likelihood of CALD communities referring children to CAMHS
- Unite government and non-government agencies to provide education that is specific to the training needs of staff
- To prevent young people offending and being incarcerated
- To increase the effectiveness of services and raise levels of CALD engagement
- To empower communities
- Improved and more effective service provision via staff who are culturally aware and competent

Suggested Recipients of the Recommendations

The audience were asked to state where they would like their recommendations to go, the following recipients were mentioned:

- The Department of Health
- The Mental Health Commission
- WAAMH
- WAPHA
- The Department of Education
- Local Government
- Politicians
- The Federal Government
- NGOs and NFPs
- All government and community services
- The State Premier
- CAMHS staff
- Mental Health nurses
- Mental health support groups
- WA Police
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- The Office of Multicultural Interests

The seminar was attended by 59 people including CaLD community members, service providers, clinicians and other interested parties. 41 evaluations were completed, of these the vast majority agreed they would be better able to support CaLD youth as result of attending:



Acknowledgements

We appreciate everyone's support and the recommendations that were made, including those for future topics for the seminar series. Thanks also go to Richmond Wellbeing, Cross Cultural Intellect, the Cultural Diversity Unit - Department of Health, the Mental Health Commission and Dr Alex Main for their support and expertise.