

Overview and recommendations – Let’s Talk Culture – 26th October, 2017

With 52 initial registrations, total attendance on the day was 43. The range of organisations represented was diverse and included:

- CACH
- OMI
- CACH – Refugee Health
- Anglicare
- Fremantle Multicultural Centre
- Cyril Jackson SC – IEC
- WAAMH
- DHS
- MSWA
- Balga High School
- Tenancy WA
- Headspace – Armadale
- South Metro TAFE – AMEP
- MHC

The seminar topic was “What are the effects of homelessness and lack of mental health support on CaLD individuals?” Guest speakers were Gayle Mitchell (State Manager Homeless Services) St Vincent de Paul WA, and from St Bartholomew’s Homeless Service, John Berger (CEO) and Sui Johansen (Manager Mental Health Support Services).

Animated discussion followed the presentations resulting in the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1- That there is increased access (federally) to skilled mental health interpreters.

Rationale:

- Culturally appropriate understanding of western mental health and systems
- Federally based to prevent confidentiality and family cross-over issues

Suggested recipients for this recommendation:

Departments i.e. Health, Education and Communities

Overview and recommendations – Let’s Talk Culture – 26th October, 2017

Recommendation 2 – Is actually 3 recommendations:

- That funding to be in preventative/early intervention programs;
- That more time is allowed for when working cross-culturally (e.g. using interpreters takes extra time);
- That care givers receive psychosocial education.

Rationale: More funding dedicated to resettlement and holding families through transition as a preventative measure.

Suggested recipients for this recommendation: none provided

Recommendation 3 – That mental health open housing for CaLD

Rationale: To address cultural needs and ensure support is received from the right people.

Suggested recipients for this recommendation: none provided

Recommendation 4 – That the Residential Tenancies Act is reformed to make private rental more affordable and more secure, and a tenure which provides people with more secure housing/accommodation.

Rationale: The WA State Government is planning to review the Residential Tenancies Act in 2018. Large numbers of CaLD people live in private rental accommodation, the Act needs to be sufficiently reformed to make private rental more secure, more affordable and long-term. Private rental is the only housing option for many people of CaLD backgrounds and for many new arrivals i.e. asylum seekers and refugees. But it is expensive and insecure and there remains considerable discrimination. The cost of private rental, the lack of affordable rental and insecure housing is a major cause of homelessness

Suggested recipients for this recommendation: None provided

This recommendation was from Colin Penter who would like feedback on the progress of his recommendation. Colin is from WA Association for Mental Health – contact details: cpenter@waamh.org.au



Overview and recommendations – Let's Talk Culture – 26th October, 2017

Recommendation 5 – That there is increased focus on prevention.

Rationale: Increased funding/time given to support newly arrived and often vulnerable people, to explain life in Australia/culture/society/expectation many of which have unfamiliar concepts to some.

Suggested recipients for this recommendation: Immigration Dept and via this conduit appropriate NGOs and community groups.
