## Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Project

### Phase 1 Literature Review

#### What is CaLD

- Culturally and Linguistically diverse.
- CaLD encompasses a diverse community
- Can be:
  - ▶ Refugee, asylum seeker, migrant- temporary and permanent visas, Australian citizen and Australian born citizen.
- ▶ Almost 49% of Australians were either first generation or second generation Australians. (1)
- Came to Australia for a better life
- Common problems they face
  - Cultural and linguistic problems, racism, discrimination, employment problems, family conflicts and settlement issues. (2)





#### Literature review

- ▶ Barriers to positive mentally healthy actions in CaLD population. (2,3)
  - Cultural barriers
  - Linguistic barriers
  - Not understanding mental health
  - Being unaware of facilities or unable to access facilities eg. Community groups
  - Daily responsibility eg family, work commitments.
  - ▶ Unaware of services available or inability to access the services
- Strong stigmatism of Mental health for many culutres
- Lack of research surrounding the different CaLD communities. Often studies have small participant numbers. (4)

### Positive mental health promotion activities

- Community activities
  - Community gardens
  - ▶ Physical activity classes and health education classes
  - Men's shed
  - Educational classes (community English classes, health education, parenting class and Living skills class)
  - ► The Arts
    - ▶ Photo vice
    - ▶ Community music eg Drumbeat
    - Mental health education through theatre





# Phase 2 Interview and Focus group

#### Purpose

► To identify the most relevant method to deliver the Act-Belong-Commit to the CaLD population of Western Australia.

#### Objectives

- ▶ To identify the most relevant method to deliver the Act-Belong-Commit message to CaLD population.
- ▶ To find what are the current Act-Belong-Commit behaviours are in CaLD population.
- ▶ To identify the current gaps in the preventative/ positive mental health action within this community.

#### Interviews

- Rehab Ahmed-Ishar Multicultural Women's Centre
- Maria Bun- Multicultural Association of WA / Multicultural Aged Care Solutions
- Karen Lipo- Health Promotion Officer-CALD, Katanning
- Helen Maddocks and Catherine Colvin- Office of Multicultural Interest
- Doris Sant- North West Area Mental Health Service (VIC)
- ▶ Bernadette Wright- Transcultural Mental Health

#### Results

- Enjoy being part of the community and social interaction with friends and family.
- Enjoy activities associated to the Arts, crafting, music, gardening.
- Difficulties:
  - ► Language barrier to understanding health services
  - Lack of confidence
  - ► Family responsibilities
  - ▶ Isolation, acculturation
  - Engage in living not just being resilient

#### Recommendations for resources

- ► Interviewers identified that the Act-Belong-Commit message would be beneficial for the population however the message would be slightly difficult to understand for the clients.
- Lots of pictures
- Simple English, very worded can be daunting or not appealing
- More culturally relevant activities
- Best to provide in person workshops with discussion
  - ▶ Train the trainer style



#### Focus groups

- Ishar Multicultural Women's groups (Mirrabooka and Bentley)
  - Female
  - ► Aged 30-60+
  - $\rightarrow$  n=15 and n=7
- ASeTTS -Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS)
  - Male
  - ► Aged 30-60+
  - ▶ n=12

#### Results

- ► There were many common results from the focus groups
- ▶ Benefits of living in Australia was the safety, friendliness of people, government and non-government assistance, professionalism of health workers
- Negatives included crime, quietness living within the suburbs, miss their families back in their home country, isolation, difficulties navigating services, immigration process- strict and difficult
- Described someone who is mentally healthy would :
  - Help others
  - Think positively
  - Be social
  - Be active and eat right

#### Results

- Activities they enjoy doing
  - Attending the community groups ie Ishar or ASeTTS benefited with their mental health
  - Going out to shops, café or city etc
  - Enjoyed social gatherings friends
  - Enjoyed calling their families and friends in home country
- Activities they would like to try or do
  - Swimming
  - Fishing
  - Yoga



#### Gap findings

Numerous participants during the focus group and some interviewer identified there was a lack of awareness or connection between the importance of Act-Belong-Commit activities and mentally healthy effect.



#### Recommendations

- Mixed approach
- Simple resources
- Lots of pictures less words
- Mixed opinions on English or translated documents preference
  - ▶ Some commented they would like in English to improve their literacy skills however some felt that they would benefit more in their translated language
- Both Ishar and ASeTTS participants agreed that an interactive workshop delivery would be most appropriate for message communication. Important to include discussion session.

## Multicultural places or events to spread the Act-Belong-Commit message

- Target through multicultural events as well
  - ► Lunar new year events throughout Perth
  - ▶ Harmony week
- CaLD churches
- Cultural community groups
  - https://www.omi.wa.gov.au/CommunitiesNetworks/ Pages/EthnicOrganisations.aspx
- CaLD communication channels eg newspapers and or radio channels



#### Final words

- Don't be afraid to approach and ask
- Question?

#### Reference

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