

Ageing your way, my way – working together: Spiritus research into the emerging ageing CALD communities in Brisbane

Author/s: Abbato, S Durham, J | **Year:** 2011 | **Publication type:** Report | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** General Care, Culturally appropriate care

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Key Words:

emerging communities, culturally specific care, service access

Research aim:

The aim of this research is to facilitate connections between CALD communities and HACC services, to enable all Queenslanders, no matter what language or cultural background, to age with dignity and appropriate care.

Results/Conclusion:

Some of the findings confirmed existing knowledge - that the greatest issues for CALD seniors is isolation, even within their own families, that they lack knowledge and understanding of aged care services, and identify transport as a key unmet need. Less well known was the extent of small, un-funded and volunteer run community groups providing social services to their own communities. Leaders of these groups have established community networks, the trust of the community, the ability to organise social events for elders and also act as a liaison between service providers and the community. Some suggested strategies to link with and support these groups are identified. In all traditional cultures it is customary for younger members of the family to care for their aged. It is a clear duty of the younger people and an expectation by their elders. In Australia, the lifestyle is different and younger people are busy with work and their own families and have less capacity to do this. In many cases this unmet need is not spoken about as it is associated with 'loss of face', and shame. For many seniors, the shame is worse than the isolation.

Implications:

A separate report (Part 2) lists all the community organisations contacted for this research, as well as a couple already in the Queensland Multicultural Resource Directory (Queensland 2009). This list is provided as a resource for all HACC services, and participants agreed to publication with the proviso that it be made available only for this purpose. For this reason Part 2 of the report is available to HACC service providers only.

Cultural Group(s):

Pacific Islander, Vietnamese, people from the former Yugoslavia, Indian, Filipino, Central & South American, Sri Lankan and African

Location of study:

Brisbane

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary and secondary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: