

Caring for older refugees in NSW: A discussion paper

Author/s: NSW Refugee Health Service | **Year:** 2006 | **Publication type:** Discussion Paper | **Peer reviewed:** No | **Topic area/s:** General Care, General Wellbeing, Refugees

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Key Words:

Refugees, Older migrants, service provision, policy

Research aim:

This discussion paper aims to provide policy makers and service providers with an overview of older refugees' needs, discuss initiatives available to meet them, and make recommendations to meet gaps in service delivery. It highlights challenges specific to being an older refugee in Australia - challenges that are additional to those common to all older people, and those faced by migrants as they age.

Results/Conclusion:

While some individual services, including those who helped develop this paper, have recognised the issues of older refugees, there is little such acknowledgment either at the level of Australian and State/Territory Government policy, research, and planning, or at the level of service provision and practice. A central recommendation of this paper is that the Australian and State/Territory Governments should acknowledge older refugees as a group with special needs related to their past experiences, and that this should be reflected in research policies, funding guidelines and service planning and delivery.

Implications:

Australian and State/Territory Government policy needs to recognise settlement as a lifelong process in which issues may arise at different life stages, and take a 'whole-of government' approach where policy and funding guidelines for services to older refugees are shared between a number of departments.

Cultural Group(s):

CALD

Location of study:

Australia

Age group:

Not specific

Number included in study:

5 Case studies are used to frame the discussion paper

Type of participants:

Older refugees

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: