

SETS Community of Practice

Communique: Community Capacity Building Subgroup Meeting

Videoconference – 20 July 2022

On 20 July 2022, SETSCoP facilitated the meeting of the Community Capacity Building subgroup. This group works to share best practice in the delivery of SETS and collaborate in the development of resources to support this work. The discussions focused on the support provided to communities managing crisis and grief.

Supports delivered

Providers used a flexible age-tailored approach to support communities to manage grief and significant events happening overseas and in Australia. Supporting grassroots agencies with catering, venues and art materials gives young people a safe space to discuss their experiences and feelings. Some organisations have been delivering support to the elderly population to support them with the challenges that come with isolation.

Providers have delivered consultations on the impacts of trauma and the ways to manage its symptoms.

Throughout the COVID pandemic in some areas a community task force was created to address the challenges that communities are going through. The task force has organised health experts to address the issues and was actively contacting individuals regarding vaccination-related questions.

For the Afghan community faced with the crisis in their home country, providers organised information sessions about immigration and visas. Staff and volunteers offered practical support in making draft visa applications before individuals were referred to lawyers. Such an approach has decreased the waiting periods for individuals and improved overall wellbeing.

Providers have organised information sessions, conversations, and training for staff to address skill gaps in mental health support, suicide prevention, and trauma-related support. A high level of collaboration between organisations helped to find resources and training.

Providers have produced videos for schools and teachers to better support students during traumatic events.

Current Challenges

People with particular visa types face specific challenges in trying to enter the labour market.

An excessive administrative burden impedes service delivery to vulnerable clients.

Requested resources to be developed

The group discussed available support for staff to gain skills in trauma response support. Recognition of skills gaps in the workforce is an essential step in providing relevant support to communities at risk. (See shared resources links below).

The group identified that the following resources would be useful:

- Youth-specific mental health training with an emphasis on an intersectional approach.
- A service that provides up-to-date news on events happening overseas in a timely manner.

Shared resources

Resources for survivors, community leaders, service providers, health professionals and schools: <https://qpastt.org.au/resources/>

Suicide prevention training: <https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/qtmhc/suicide-prevention>

Online Incidental Counselling training: <https://qpastt.org.au/training-courses/>