

Communique:

Overview:

- The SETSCoP Ethno- & Religious-Specific Organisations Subgroup will meet three times in 2023.
- The group discussed the challenges that SETS providers are experiencing to assist newly arrived and clients who have been established for longer in Australia, the gaps between young people and elders in terms of participation in decision making and fundraising for the community groups and the importance of understanding the change in views for new arrivals in terms of rights and other areas.

Discussion points:

- SETS providers discussed the diverse experiences within single communities (which are too often mistaken to be monolithic). This includes differences between newly arrived and more established cohorts (based on time of arrival in Australia) and different generations or age groups. These facets impact the interpretation of culture and religion.
- The subgroup discussed gaps between young people and elders. Young people often lack access to funding and having a voice in community decision-making processes, whilst elders may be more known and respected – but these dynamics can have repercussions on the uptake of new ideas and equity. For example, younger people, who SETS providers work with, may be more open to discussing alcohol and drug abuse and DFV issues.
- SETS providers noted the importance in acknowledging that recent arrivals have experienced major changes in education, women’s rights, and other social areas. Migrants and refugees who have been in Australia longer often have a fixed notion of cultural and social norms in their countries of origin.
- A SETS provider shared that although ethno- and religious-specific organisations and groups are essential in community cohesion and capacity, it is also important for groups to learn about other cultures and gain wider understandings about Australia. An example was introductions to Aboriginal Australian culture, including understanding acknowledgement and welcome to country and respectful dialogue.
- The group discussed the importance of engaging volunteers and community members that have arrived within the 5-year window of SETS services, so that they can assist new arrivals with the transition process.
- The subgroup discussed different approaches to client services:
 - Some SETS providers find benefit in focussing on the family as a unit.
 - Other providers focus on assessing individuals within families to help identify individual needs.
- A SETS provider discussed the advisory group for their settlement programming.
- The subgroup discussed bringing in people with lived experience to be part of discussions concerning them.

Outcomes (to be further refined):

- Use the small subgroup as a forum to discuss (anonymised and confidential) case studies, for wider discussion and feedback from SETS practitioners across different organisations.
- A package to improve referrals.
- Culturally-responsive resources to share with non-ethno- and religious-specific organisations, building on the strengths and expertise of ethno- and religious-specific organisations
- Issues paper on the role of ethno- and religious-specific organisations in settlement, and what it means to work from an ethno-specific and religious-specific perspective: What is it? What makes it different? (To inform wider settlement practice).



SETSCoP

Next meeting: Scheduled for 20 July 2023.

Attendees (5 SETS):

Nicholas Ross (SPG)

Maria Rosales (SPG)

Walid Rahman (SPG)

Brett (CMY)

Armita (Southeast Community Links)

Fazlinda (Australian Women's rights)

Hiba (Whittlesea Community Connections)

Preethi (CMY)

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