

SETSCoP Ethno- & Religious-Specific Subgroup Meeting Summary Communiqué

DISCUSSION: Community response to the conflict in Occupied Palestinian Territories and region

- Communities are mindful of whom they seek support from and engage with in response to the conflict in Occupied Palestinian Territories and regions.
- Communities (including new arrivals) are aware of organisations, officials, and funding sources who are perceived to be complicit and will not engage, especially in services that are viewed as optional (e.g. social integration programs).
- The conflict in Gaza and the broader region is affecting communities' mental health with revisitation of- and vicarious trauma through news, media, social media and discourse among the community.

DISCUSSION: Bullying experienced by refugee children

- Refugee children in the Western Sydney region are experiencing increased rates of bullying.
- Concerns on the ground with issues and perception of youth crime. This includes with young boys typically struggling with school but are active in other social services (parents are struggling to manage these issues).

DISCUSSION: Housing

- Current housing support programs are only available for those already homeless, as opposed to those vulnerable and at-risk.
- Crisis accommodation is only available for three days.
- Real estate agents/landlords are not looking at applications, particularly those currently on support payments (i.e. Centrelink).

DISCUSSION: Palestinians' visas

- Due to Palestinians' three-month visitor visa, they are not entitled or eligible to access services within the scope of the SETS program – providers note that this is a missed opportunity in providing support for a community in need. This experience was juxtaposed to that of Ukrainian refugees. A note linked to this is that 'Palestinian' is not a country category available in DEX.
- Providers are working with charity organisations to help with financial and health (pro bono) issues.

Subgroup Outcomes: Working from an ethno- & religious specific perspective.

- Currently being drafted to be shared (April – May)

Attendees (6):

Nick Ross (Social Policy Group - SETSCoP Secretariat)

Chai Oonnakat (Social Policy Group – SETSCoP)

Fazlinda (AMWCHR, VIC)

Kritika (SSI, NSW)

Brett (CMY, VIC)

Sana (SECL, VIC)