

SETSCoP Meeting Summary Communique

LGBTIQ+ Subgroup – 27 November 2024

Facilitated by The Social Policy Group (SPG)

1. LGBTIQ+ Subgroup

- The LGBTIQ+ Subgroup discussed the unique challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees, the importance of culturally responsive service delivery, and opportunities to enhance sector-wide capacity for safe and inclusive services, while amplifying existing initiatives.

2. Service Provider Experiences and Challenges

- Organisations like STARTTS, Many Coloured Sky, and MercyCare are leading efforts to build sector capacity in LGBTIQ+ service delivery.
- Some providers are apprehensive about openly supporting LGBTIQ+ individuals ("flying the rainbow"), fearing disconnection from certain communities. STARTTS' experience indicates these fears may be unfounded.
- For service providers in remote or regional areas, there is inadequate access to and available specialist services for LGBTIQ+
- For regional providers—also among small communities—LGBTIQ+ clients may be reluctant to access queer-centred services due to safety concerns.

3. Many Coloured Sky (MCS) – Ian Seal and MCS team

- Many Coloured Sky—as well as STARTTS—provide secondary consultations to guide organisations in culturally safe, inclusive, and effective responses.
- As a new SETS provider—brings an informed queer lens to settlement and migration.
- Funding to deliver specialised (with expertise) services is limited.
- Programs and approaches to service delivery are informed by lived experience and is centred on clients' needs, with a strong emphasis on intersectionality.
- Programs have offered clients a connection to community, safety, and sense of belonging, recognising that for queer migrants and refugees, cultural communities may not be safe.

4. Rainbow Migrants Living Lab (Presentation by Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski, Edith Cowan University)

- Ideas of queer identity are often Western-centric and may not align with culturally diverse perspectives.
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):
 - > Queer migrants and refugees may face coercive control from partners. These can include threats of blackmail or of exposure to communities of origin or religious groups, often deepening social isolation.
 - > Cultural misunderstandings may exacerbate these power imbalances and abuse.
- Western concepts of queer visibility can conflict with the safety needs of migrants and refugees, creating pressure to conform to expectations that may not align with their lived realities.
- Learn more about Rainbow Migrants Living Lab at:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/newsroom/articles/research/ecu-launches-rainbow-migrants-living-lab-to-drive-social-inclusion-and-enhance-well-being-in-lgbtiqa-migrants>

5. Questions for Future Consideration:

- **Sector Capacity Building**
 - > How can less experienced organisations leverage the expertise of leaders and experts in service delivery for LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees?
 - > How can the subgroup, the SETSCoP, and the secretariat support and amplify existing work to ensure a coordinated sector response that is safe and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees?
 - > Can a heat map of sector capacity be helpful?
- **Trauma-Informed Care for LGBTIQ+ Clients**
 - > What does trauma-informed care mean at the intersectional experiences of LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees?
- **Safety in Settlement**
 - > What is the current state of safety for LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees in the settlement sector?
 - > How do SETS providers perceive their organisational capacity to address these concerns, and where are the gaps?

Outcomes

- The subgroup will co-design an outcome that will support subgroup members in their work and wider SETS program and community of practice.

6. For consideration:

- Build on existing initiatives to strengthen cross-sector referral pathways (SETS and outside of SETS services) for LGBTIQ+ clients.
- Continue fostering national collaboration to ensure consistent, culturally safe, and trauma-informed service delivery.
- Amplify lived experience voices to shape innovative and responsive practices in the settlement sector.

Attendees (18 SETS Staff / 12 SETS organisations):

Nick Ross (SPG – SETSCoP Secretariat)
Chai Oonankat (SPG – SETSCoP Secretariat)
Jimena Loreto (SPG)
Charlie Wan (SPG)
Dr Kryzowski (Edith Cowan University)

Afsoun (MercyCare)
Alexis (MYAN NSW)
Ali (Intereach)
Evie (Many Coloured Sky)
Grace (Spectrum)
Grace (STARTSS)
Gracie (Many Coloured Sky)

Ian (Many Coloured Sky)
Jacqui (MercyCare)
Jasmina (STARTTS)
Julia (Greater Southern MS Albany WA)
Kai (Many Coloured Sky)
Leticia (Many Coloured Sky)
Maree (SSI QLD)
Magdaline (Advance Diversity NSW)
Mohamed (CRISP)
Nino (Spectrum)
Sarah (Arabic Welfare)
Sun (Melaleuca NT)