Bendigo Community Health Services

Presented by:
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www.bchs.com.au

Working hand in hand with our community to achieve healthier lives.
• City of Greater Bendigo settling intensely for past 10 years

• Refugees est. 2,500 Karen, 300 Afghan (Hazara), South Sudanese

• High secondary migration due to access to housing, health, education, jobs and welcoming city and services
Bendigo Local Refugee Settlement Networks (BLSN)
purpose:
• To work together to facilitate self-reliance and social cohesion amongst migrant’s international students and those of refugee background in the City of Greater Bendigo so they are settled and empowered.

Objectives:
• To identify unmet settlements needs,
• Enhance service coordination
• Identify local professional development
Network meets 3 times per year
The network is underpinned and informed by 3 sub-groups:
• Refugee Health and Wellbeing Working Group
• SHEV Safe Haven Enterprise Visa working party
• English Education & Employment working

These 3 sub-groups determine frequency of meetings and purpose that aligns with the network purpose.
Local issues impacting on optimal settlement and social cohesion.

Social cohesion – facts reduce prejudice

Mosque build:
- understanding Islam sessions
- work closely with Bendigo Islamic Ass
- BCHS employed Islam worker

Poor health and service literacy - established BCHS Community Harmony program:
- Understanding refugee pre and post settlement
- Understanding Islam and Karen culture
- Pre-settlement experience Sth Sudanese
- Forum increase refugee youth sensitive practice

L2P
Teen pregnancy

Specialist services require trips to Melbourne – impact on client and resources
Wins

- Incredible BCHS employees, volunteers of lived experience.
- High refugee youth engagement – camps programs CMY FH
- Structural change – traineeships, jobs, increasing culturally diverse workforce
- Increasing health literacy, development of resources by community
  - Diabetes Vic
  - Mental health headspace
  - Hazara community resource
- Jamshod dinners
- Acceptance of and involvement with local police
- High numbers of volunteers RAR FAM GMADFC
THANK YOU

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Connect with us at
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