



bendigo
Community Health
services

Bendigo Community Health Services

Presented by:
Kaye Graves
Manager Cultural Diversity and Relationships

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



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THANK YOU

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Connect with us at
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