



MIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Communiqué

First Meeting, Sub-Working Group on Effective Communication and Working with Interpreters Standards - Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership

20 June 2017

Sub-Working Group on Effective Communication and Working with Interpreters Standards met for the first time in Canberra on 20 June 2017. Members discussed the priorities for the Sub-Working Group focusing on the development of professional level working with interpreters standards for clinician, as well as the prospective development of system level standards. Members noted the importance of articulating a set of standards, acknowledging the emerging translation technology. The group considered the frameworks of relevance to professional standards development and those that are relevant to health professionals in particular.

The meeting focused on the importance of embedding professional standards for working with interpreters by the relevant peak professional and standard setting bodies for clinicians; the opportunity to emphasise, through the standards, that leadership and responsibility with regard to identifying the need for an interpreter vest with the clinician; and the need to be mindful of not duplicating existing resources and instead recommending existing resources for developing relevant 'curated collections'.

The group identified the following overarching principles for the standards, which included equity, access, safety, quality, and privacy. Scoping of prospective standards was structured around three broad themes: identifying the need for engaging interpreters, competence in engaging and working with interpreters, and expectations for the clinician and the interpreter.

The standards will be developed with a view to enabling clear communication between the clinician and the interpreter, and setting clear expectations for the parties. Once developed, the proposed standards will be reviewed by the Working Group of the Partnership with a view to submitting them to medical, nursing and midwifery colleges for consideration and endorsement.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to reflect on the current establishment of the health specialisation for interpreters under the certification scheme implemented by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, and to consider the relevance of the standards development in this regard.

The Sub-Working Group will meet several times in 2017, with the next meeting scheduled to be held in early August 2017.

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