



MIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Communiqué
Third Meeting, Working Group, Migrant and Refugee Women's Health
Partnership
26 May 2017

The Working Group, Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership, held its third meeting in Melbourne on 26 May 2017.

The group discussed the progress of the Partnership's scoping work with regards to cultural competence in professional education, training and standard setting for clinicians consolidated in a draft report. Noting that the report would be further informed by a final round of consultations with the Colleges, the Working Group made some key observations based on the review, including the broad range of approaches to reflecting curricula cultural competencies in training. It was agreed that where the Working Group could particularly add value is in providing guidance on the operationalising of cultural competencies in on-the-job learning.

Embedding the importance of ensuring effective communication with patients with low English proficiency and working with interpreters, as well as the skills required to do so effectively, as part of education and training was identified as one of the priorities. There was an overall agreement about the need to work towards assessment of the impact of cultural competency training, and a framework that measures the quality of good practice. Members agreed that a range of stakeholders, including the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges and the Medical Board of Australia, should be consulted on the key findings of the review and the opportunities to embed cultural competence considerations across relevant processes. Members also reviewed the interim findings of the review capturing good practice across Primary Health Networks in facilitating primary health care delivery for migrants and refugees, and discussed the next steps in progressing this area of work.

The Working Group received briefings from Mr Emiliano Zucchi about the work undertaken by Northern Health in providing transcultural and language services in health care, its evaluation and key findings, and Dr Tracy Robinson from Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation on patient centred care for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The group also met with Mr Mark Painting, CEO of the National Accreditation for Translators and Interpreters, to discuss the developments in the transition to the certification scheme for interpreters and translators, including the establishing of specialisation in health interpreting, and the opportunities to work together to enhance the engagement of interpreting services in health care.

The Working Group will hold its next meeting in August 2017.

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