



Curtin University

HIV AND MOBILITY IN AUSTRALIA

Sharing Stories with multicultural youth
at the Metropolitan Migrant Resource
Centre



Project Organisation

The Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC) is a community based organisation that provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Project Summary

Sharing Stories is an innovative project that uses theatre and drama-based strategies to empower members of CALD communities to become peer educators. These educators break through cultural barriers to appropriately communicate sexual health & blood borne virus education as well as offer support, appropriate resources & referral pathways to increase access to sexual health. The project is built on the following health promotion frameworks, strategies & documents: Ottawa Charter, Jakarta Declaration, HIV and Mobility in Australia: Road Map for Action & Community development framework

Location: Western Australia

Populations Involved: Multicultural youth

Duration: 2008—2016

Funding: Department of Health WA as well as small project grants from Hepatitis WA and the Office of Multicultural Interest WA



'Sharing Stories drama group performing at Fringe Festival 2015'

Project Aim

To reduce the transmission of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs) in CALD communities living in Western Australia through evidence-based and innovative strategies, health promotion frameworks and community mobilisation.

Project Objectives

- Increase STI and BBV health literacy, uptake of harm minimisation strategies, screening, treatment and use of relevant care and support services by CALD community members.
- Increase responsiveness and service coordination in relation to STI and BBV transmission in CALD communities.
- Strengthen relevant partnerships with CALD services and health sector stakeholders.

Road Map Action Areas

The [HIV and Mobility in Australia: Road Map for Action](#) proposes 71 strategies under five action areas to address HIV in mobile populations. This project addresses the following action areas.

Action Area 3) Community mobilisation

Strategy 3.2. Develop HIV knowledge and capacity amongst migrant community, cultural and spiritual leaders.

Action Area 4) Development of services for mobile or migrant people and groups

Strategy 4.3 Further develop programs and services to be delivered by peers in migrant and multicultural organisations and HIV sector organisations

Measuring Achievements

Sharing Stories adopted a strong evidence-based approach. Epidemiology updates, research and community needs analysis formed the basis for program planning and development. An extensive literature review and focus groups were conducted to determine how best to address identified issues. Pre and post impact evaluation was conducted after implementation of each project activity. Process evaluation was done to ensure that interventions were being conducted as planned. Sharing Stories conducted performance management and monitoring to create sustainability.

An [evaluation](#)¹ of Sharing Stories was conducted in 2013 and showed increased knowledge, confidence in seeking STI testing, and positive attitudes towards carrying condoms. This evaluation found that theatre and drama-based sexual health strategies were effective with multicultural youth.

Project Successes

- 2015 Settlement Innovation Award with Sharing Stories for Australian Migration and Settlement Awards
- 2013 WA Health Award for Excellence in Community Engagement with Consumers and Carers.
- 2011 World AIDS Day Award
- 2010 Multimedia Collective Award – Sharing Stories Group for Outstanding Achievement in Peer Education
- 2010 Australian Prime Minister Youth Challenge – Special Achievement Award

Lessons Learnt

For many multicultural youth, sexual health is considered a shameful and taboo topic. Interactive and creative strategies are an effective way of delivering sexual health education. The use of an arts-based data collection in conjunction with a survey tool was effective at measuring changes in skills and knowledge.

References

¹ Roberts, Lobo, & Sorenson (2016) Evaluating the Sharing Stories youth theatre program: an interactive theatre and drama-based strategy for sexual health promotion among multicultural youth. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia* doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/HE15096>

Contact

For further information about the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre, please visit the website at www.mmrcwa.org.au



This document was published by the **Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM)**. CoPAHM was established to keep HIV and mobility issues on the national agenda, and to progress action areas highlighted within the *HIV and mobility in Australia: Road Map for Action*.

To find out more details about *The Road Map* or *CoPAHM*, please [click here](#) or email [**copahm@curtin.edu.au**](mailto:copahm@curtin.edu.au)

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