



Issues and challenges for research about the HIV care and support needs of PLHIV from migrant populations in Australia

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Thank you to PLHIV community

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Thank you to our community partners in each state and territory.

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Background and aims

- Rates of new HIV transmissions dropping among Australian born gay men but not other populations
- Limited research on effective strategies to increase HIV testing, prevention initiatives, among culturally and linguistically diverse populations (including migrant and mobile populations)
- Limited research on social and support needs of PLHIV from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- Range of other issues for migrant communities that may be more pressing than HIV, there may be unique care and support needs related to living with HIV that are not addressed by mainstream health or community services

Aims:

To better understand how to meet the care and support needs of people living with HIV from culturally and linguistically diverse populations within the context of broader social, cultural, health and economic circumstances

To identify strategies to improve research about the care and support needs of people living with HIV from culturally and linguistically diverse communities

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Barriers to HIV social research with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia

- Excellent HIV social research history in Australia, largely focused on gay men.
- Are skills and knowledge developed through HIV social research with gay men transferrable to HIV social research (prevent and needs assessment research) with culturally and linguistically diverse communities?

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Barriers to HIV social research with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia

- Recent trend in HIV social research and funding toward large studies, which works against need for small studies to capture diverse experiences
 - ‘Overseas born’ PLHIV are not one group
 - Culturally and linguistically diverse communities are not one group
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities can be hard to reach
 - No programs to reach people through
 - Language barriers, privacy concerns, stigma
 - HIV low on list of people's priorities
- Where is the research workforce?

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Conclusions

- We need good quality, qualitative social research to better understand and enhance HIV prevention among culturally and linguistically diverse communities (and highly mobile populations)
- We also need good quality research to identify and demonstrate social and support needs of PLHIV from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (to advocate the need for, and to design, programs)
- Barriers to this are structural (funding, higher value on largescale research)
- We need to find strategies to support community-driven, small scale research projects that are specific to communities (and don't use 'overseas born' as the point of connection between people in these groups)
- We need to rethink our approach to HIV research with culturally and linguistically diverse communities and not assume the way we have always approached HIV social research will work

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Thank you

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