

Carers Week

The morning of 3 October 2008 saw the Cultural Peer Facilitators setting up the Carers Week display at the King George Gardens.

The King George Gardens was a hive of activity. There were people working on the sound stage, the Council was there delivering tables and chairs, some of the carers' groups were unwrapping their articles to be displayed, banners and feathers were erected on all corners of the park.

trying to inform the public of the various aged care services that are available in the Wangaratta Community for people to access.

Later in the afternoon, it was time to call it a day. In retrospect, as the Cultural Peer Facilitators look back, it was indeed a great community effort which made Carers Week a success.



Henk Zeinstra

For enquiries about AMCP, please contact:

North East Multicultural Association

PO Box 417 Wangaratta Vic 3676

Tel: (03) 5722 0726

Mob: 0409 018 111

E-mail: nema@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Those curious people who were game enough to brave the cold morning, to come and have a look were well looked after. The ukulele and mandolin band was playing old favourites on the sound stage as well as a number of more modern songs.

Morning tea was served in the C.W.A. kitchen, the APEX people were doing a great job with the barbeque and everywhere in the park, drinks were available.

There were many service providers, all

PROJECT PARTNERS



VILLAMARIA



The NEMA Aged Migrant Connections Project received funding assistance from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Community Partners Programs (CPP).



SUMMER 2008/9 NEWSLETTER

The Aged Migrant Connections Project (AMCP) is an initiative of the North East Multicultural Association in partnership with Moira Healthcare Alliance's HACC Cultural Diversity Initiative. The project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Community Partners Program. AMCP aims to strengthen the relationship between culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse communities and services providing aged care.

Phase one of the project involved training 10 Cultural Peer Facilitators (CPFs) - 6 Italians, 1 German, 2 Dutch and 1 Belgian living in the Rural City of Wangaratta and Alpine Shire. Following training, the CPFs co-facilitated 3 community consultations in their communities discussing the barriers to accessing age care services.

Other key people involved in supporting the project include Bobbie Titcher - HACC Cultural Diversity Initiative Facilitator, Moira Healthcare Alliance; Klaudia Vainshtein - Senior Project Officer, The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing; Karen Marsh - Department Manager, The Centre; Natasha McCormick - Manager Health/SACS, GOTAFE; Maria Connor - Team Leader, Villa Maria; and Tania Konkoly - Disability Advocacy & Information Service.



From left standing: Jutta Williams, Mary Novak, Rita Sguario, Elvira Casagrande, Teresa Pasquali, Lucie Van Aken and Peter Bogotto

Seated: Frances Salenga, Henk Zeinstra, Peter Robbers and Michele Bonacci

Absent: Maria Mautone

AMCP - Phase 2

Phase 2 of AMCP kicked off with a Cultural Peer Facilitators planning session in September.

The community projects planned include a community radio hour, AMCP newsletter, community information packages, community events, a project manual, protocols with services, a carers' support group and cultural briefings to educate service staff.

The Cultural Peer Facilitators wish to continue to be proactive when issues arise. They have committed to more community consultations and advocating for older people in their communities.

Having been successfully trained, everyone involved is keen to put their training into action and push the project forward!

How often in conversations with friends, neighbours and people in the street do I hear the exclamation: "I have never heard about that service" This is precisely the time for me as a Cultural Peer Facilitator to jump into the fray and start sharing the information I have learned about aged care services.

It sounds pretty simple to do, but mind you, there are requirements to observe. First, one has to have the correct knowledge and information. Second, if you do not have the required information or are not sure, it is best to know where to obtain the correct information.

To me, that just about sums up the task of a Cultural Peer Facilitator. However, one must not forget that a Cultural Peer Facilitator is meant to concentrate on assisting culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse people which in many cases makes it a slightly more complicated task.

Henk Zeinstra

Greetings from the Cultural Peer Facilitators



"Guardo con entusiasmo l'opportunità di usare le informazioni ottenute con il corso d'istruzione Aged Migrant Connection, nell'assistere gli anziani con origini (CALD) culturali e Linguistiche diverse."

"I look forward to having the opportunity to use the information I obtained in the AMCP training in assisting the elderly from a CALD background." (Peter Bogotto, Italian)



"Con tutte le informazioni disponibili sull'assistenza per gli anziani trovo difficile determinare quali servizi devo intraprendere."

"With all the information on aged care services, I feel it is difficult to determine which aged care service to access." (Mary Novak, Italian)



"We were given a lot of information on aged care services to the point we felt overwhelmed with all the services available for our communities."

(Lucie Van Aken, Belgian)



"The AMCP e un progetto con iniziative molto interessanti e mi ha dato ispirazione di assistere a questo progetto per gli anziani"

"The Aged Migrant Connections Project is a very interesting initiative and it has inspired me to support older people." (Rita Sguario, Italian New Cultural Peer Volunteer)



"NEMA", die Organisation für vielfältige Kulturen der Einwanderer im Nordosten von Victoria, hat eine Gruppe von zehn freiwilligen Helfern für mehrere Wochen über die Möglichkeiten und Organisationen in der Altersversorgung dieser Gegend informiert und belehrt. In dieser Gruppe von freiwilligen Helfern waren Herren und Damen von Belgien, Deutschland, Holland und Italien, die sich während dieser Lehrstunden gut kennengelernt haben. Wangaratta Council, sowie "The Centre", ein Zentrum für Erwachsenenbelehrung, unterstützte diesen Kurs und stellte alle nötigen Unterlagen, Gebäude und erfahrenes Lehrpersonal zur Verfügung."

The North East Multicultural Association (NEMA) in Victoria has trained a group of 10 volunteers on how to provide information to older people about aged care services that are available. The group of volunteer Cultural Peer Facilitators are from Belgium, Germany, Netherland and Italy. Different service providers have been supportive of the project such as the Wangaratta Council and "The Centre" by implementing the training and providing all required learning materials, the venues and experienced teachers. Now, I am more equipped with the knowledge and information on aged care in my role as a Cultural Peer Facilitator." (Jutta Williams, German)



"Het is my meer duidelijk geworden, hoe groot het aantal moeilijkheden eigenlijk is waar krýgen, hier in Noord-Oost Victoria. Dat geldt vooral voor de alleenstaanden en degenen die in afgelegen gebieden wonen."

"I've become even more aware of the many challenges facing the elderly migrants in our north east area, particularly those that live alone and those in remote areas." (Peter Robbers, Dutch)



"The Aged Migrant Connections Project of het "bejaarde emigranten verbindings project" is een zeer goed idee want het tracht bestaande regerings

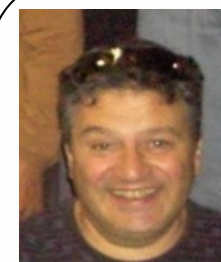
verzorgingen voor bejaarden zo veel mogelijk te verduidelijken. Het is van groot belang om de bestaande afstand tussen beschikbare regerings verzorgingen en de kennis daarvan van de gewone mens, zo veel mogelijk te overbruggen."

"The Aged Migrant Connections Project is a great idea because it will highlight the government services for older people in our communities; it is a good thing to bridge the gap between older people and aged care services." (Henk Zeinstra, Dutch)



"The AMCP e' un progetto con iniziative molto interessanti e mi ha dato ispirazione di assistere a questo progetto per gli anziani."

"The Aged Migrant Connections Project is a very interesting initiative and it has inspired me to support older people." (Teresa Pasquali, Italian)



"My experience in this project has been really opening my eyes, about how important and rewarding is the work of the volunteers, in helping our local community. It gave me a sense of belonging in this small community of Myrtleford and at the same time, it made most of the older people that I got in touch get to know me and they really appreciated what we are doing to help them".

(Michele Bonacci, Italian)



"Istruttivo-Mi ha fatto consapevole dei servizi a disposizione nella nostra comunità per gli anziani."

Esperienza-La capacità di procedure per ottenere i servizi disponibili e la confidenza di rappresentare i membri del CALD. Soddisfazione-Nel vedere la differenza che si ottiene, con un piccolo consiglio/suggerimento a qualcuno non consapevole dei servizi disponibili per gli anziani."

"Informative - learning about the different aged care service providers that exist in our communities. Challenging-giving me the knowledge of how to go about accessing these services and the confidence to speak up on behalf of CALD members. Rewarding-To see the difference a small word of advice/chat can make to someone who perhaps is not familiar with issues regarding aged services." (Elvira Casagrande, Italian)



"The AMCP e' un programma che veramente mancava nelle nostre comunità e che porterà a superare le difficoltà che molti migranti incontrano. Sono molto soddisfatta di avervi partecipato. Molto soddisfatta di avervi partecipato."

The Aged Migrant Connection Project is a very worthwhile initiative and made me realize the value of the project and the benefits it provides to our extended community. I thoroughly enjoyed the program. (Maria Mautone, Italian)