

Skill Development for Cultural Peer Facilitators

Open-Door Computer Classes

The Communities Partners Program regularly co-ordinates and supports skilled development for our current Cultural Peer Facilitators.

Computer classes help our facilitators develop leadership skills and assist in the support of the Community Partners Program.

Classes are conducted one day a week for ten weeks. Currently five Cultural Peer Facilitators are participating in the program.

Peter Bogotto— Cultural Peer Facilitator

I am currently enrolled in this program, 'Advanced Computer Training' this will help me have a better understanding in the function of computers and there use enabling me to contribute to the program.

These skills are important in report writing and research into the health services and the service they provide.

Today communication is via the electronic media, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks", but nothing ventured, nothing gained".



Dutch Xmas Celebration Recipe

Banketstaa

(Almond pastry stick)

INGREDIENTS

500 grams almond meal
500grams castor sugar
Grated peel of 2 good sized lemons
3 eggs
1/2 teaspoon of almond essence

Mix all ingredients together and wrap in foil and leave in fridge for a week or more to let all the flavours mix.

Roll out flakey pastry and place a roll of the almond mix on pastry, roll like a large sausage roll and glaze
And slash across the top.

By Hanny Bongers
Cultural Peer Facilitator



Connections Officer Nicky Tsolakis

I would like to introduce myself to the Aged Migrant Connections project newsletter.

Of Greek heritage I have a sincere and passionate interest in the issues of migrants.

Coming from a nursing background I understand the difficulties facing our ethnic seniors and the issues they face accessing appropriate Aged Care Services.

I hope to continue in the projects plan and work closely with the Cultural Peer Facilitators and make this process easier for the senior communities.

I look forward to working with you all please feel free to contact me at NEMA. If you have any suggestions or concerns to help our targeted ethnic aged communities access aged care services.

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

Project Development

This brochure has been developed by the Aged Migrant Connections Project.

The brochure is circulating in our migrant communities and with Health Care Providers.

The brochure has been printed in English and Italian.



The Voice of Multiculturalism
in North East Victoria

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AGED MIGRANT CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The Aged Migrant Connections Project aims to increase the access of multicultural community members to Aged Care Services.

This is done by providing resources and support to enable the community to make informed decisions about aged care and by advocating for the needs of multicultural communities with aged care services.

The Italian, Dutch and German communities residing in the local government areas of Wangaratta and Alpine are the key target populations for this project.

HOW DO YOU MAKE CONTACT WITH THE AGED MIGRANT CONNECTIONS PROJECT?

The Aged Migrant Connections Project Officer is at the NEMA office or speak with one of the Cultural Peer Facilitators in your area and they will liaise with the Project Officer

The AMCP is funded by the Australian Government under the Community Partners Program (CPP)

WHAT CAN THE AGED MIGRANT CONNECTIONS PROJECT DO FOR YOU?

The Aged Migrant Connections Project employs a part time Project Officer and has recruited a group of volunteer Cultural Peer Facilitators.

For individuals from a multicultural background they can:

- Provide you with information about the local aged care services in your area
- Support an older person to make the first contact with these services

For the community they can:

- Attend your meeting or event as a speaker and provide information about aged care services and how to access them
- Organize a specific information session on aged care services for your community
- Listen to what your community members have to say about difficulties accessing aged care services and provide this feedback to aged care services

For aged care service providers they can:

- Provide information to their multicultural communities about the services you offer
- Participate in, and invite other community members to, community events or consultations you are conducting
- Educate your staff and provide feedback about the needs of their communities in relation to aged care services

PROJECT PARTNERS



Cultural Peer Facilitators at Work In Your Communities

NEMA-AGED MIGRANT CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Cultural Briefings To The GOTAFE Students

Over the past two years the Cultural Peer Facilitators from NEMA'S Aged Migrant Connections Project have contributed to my classes on "Working Effectively with culturally diverse clients and co-workers" (unit within Cert' 1V Community Services). Henk, Jutta and Richard have joined us as guest speakers to three classes and Lucie and Jean gave their time to conduct a fabulous tour of Bonegilla.

They each educated my students about the experiences of new migrants to our country, particularly the challenges they faced in adapting to an unfamiliar culture. The stories they have shared of their highs and lows were a true inspiration to my students, few of who had any knowledge of people's experiences of war torn and economically depressed Europe in the 1950's and early 60's or the adventure of their journeys half way around the world. The Cultural Peer Facilitators graciously shared often humorous stories of their confusion with our language, gaining employment, appreciating our climate and understanding "Aussie" cultural norms. It was also a positive for our students to hear that they did not experience racism but felt embraced by a country that wanted them to become contributing members of the community.

I was pleased that following their contact with the Cultural Peer Facilitators many of my students were motivated to seek out and interview relatives or friends or found other stories through different sources.

It is my hope that as my students (32 in total) complete their courses and commence working in community services, particularly in aged care, they will recall the stories told by the Cultural Peer Facilitators and take the time to listen and learn from the journeys of elderly migrants in their care.

Bobbie Titcher

Sessional Teacher /
GoTAFE



Networking.....

The establishment of stronger links and the exchange of knowledge and information with Aged Care Services and CALD communities is ongoing.

The programs active presence around the community and district is visible with our successful information stands and positive feedback and invitation to participate with Aged health Care Providers and Networking members.

Cultural Peer Facilitators and team members attend these events to represent the project and exchange brochures and information relevant to our project and project partners.

Involvement with North East Health / Mental Health Week October 2010



'Carer's Week' October 2010

Villa Maria 'Music Fiesta'

Successful participation with Villa Maria and their 'Music Fiesta' in October reinforces the ongoing commitment to services and activities.



Barwidgee Lodge Myrtleford

The Program Co-ordinated a visits to a Residential Aged Care facility in the Alpine area.

Cultural Peer Facilitators talked about their experiences and exchanged information relevant to the Italian residents in the facilities.

This helps strengthen relationships and reduces CALD Communities barriers within residential centres. An afternoon of music, dancing and delicious Italian fare for afternoon tea was on hand.

Elvira Casagrande Cultural Peer Facilitator shared her experiences.

A request from the activities co-ordinator at Barwidgee Lodge, Ms Pompea Sapuppo to entertain the residents proved an enjoyable experience.

"To see the faces of the Italian residents light up when we entered the room dressed in traditional Calabrese costume, listening to the music playing tunes so familiar to them and dancing the Tarantella was indeed emotional."

Maria Mercuri from the committee of the Circola Calabrese of Myrtleford graciously accepted my request to dress in traditional costume to help provide this little interlude for the residents. A great day was had by all.



Aged Care Visit / Cultural Briefing

German Festa 21st October 2010



Cultural Peer Facilitators visited an Aged Care facility outside the township of Wangaratta (Benalla).

Jutta Williams cultural peer facilitator talked about her experiences migrating to Australia from Germany and exchanged information relevant to the German residents in the facility.

The authentically decorated room with many props and photos from Southern Germany were on display. One of the staff members wore a folkloric dress, I bought my 'Dirndels' which made up part of the display (as I have now outgrown this) I talked about my working life in 'Munich', the history of the 'October Fest' which celebrated it's 150th anniversary this year.

Cheerful music and traditional food was served, this was a talking point and a reason to reminisce with the residents.

We looked at photos of Germany, it's most scenic area's and listened to many tales.

It was a great day and very well organised and enjoyed by all.