

Community Consultation March 9th Red Cross

Questions	Community Response				
	Afghan	Congolese	Iraqi	Sudanese	Bridging Visa
What is your understanding of the Red Cross services available to those in the local area?	Support for those experiencing adversity such as refugees.	Provide practical help and humanitarian relief. Link families in Africa.	International organisation with great caring staff. Provide little support to settled community and asylum seekers not supported by government. Unsure of government connections	Undertakes international humanitarian work. Bridging Visa support. Communication and assistance in conflict areas. Tracing service	Help with financial difficulties. Support with everything for settlement. Improve English Blood donation Charity work.
What are the key issues impacting on your community?	Asylum seeker uncertainty. Health, mental health leading to ice drug use. Education option locally post-secondary school Emergency Department wait for service even triage Cost and frequency of public transport between Shepparton and Melbourne. Access to information on university education including scholarships, assistance to relocate and separation from family. Cultural issues impacting on behaviour of young people who rebel through smoking. Not well addressed by schools other than SELC. Bullying at schools.	Mental health and unsure how to access help if required. Community supports itself mental health is an issue. Stress is considered normal due to past experiences. Most in the community cannot recall not being stressed. Challenges of school, peer group pressure, anti-social behaviours and young people feeling they have rights to do what they want and make poor choices and don't understand responsibilities. Confusion over road rules.	Stress and mental health. Frustration at changing government migration policy and visa issues. AAT appeals are complex and costly. Centrelink payments reduced when overseas. Asylum seekers undergoing assessment have high stress and little support. Separation from family leading to mental health, resistant to change and not able to focus on everyday tasks. Spousal visas are very difficult and take a long time. Uncertainty about travel to Australia impacts on marriage options. Socially isolated women need support. Incidents of alcohol and drugs	Health, mental health Intergenerational change leading to conflict. Supervision of children and young people being bored and wanting to go out. Lack of engagement for young people mainly boys which has resulted in behaviour or trouble with parenting practices adjusting to a new culture, cultural difference and alcohol and drugs. Employment opportunity is limited, mainly farm work and employment pathways are not easy.	Overcrowded housing with up to 20 adults in a house. Uncertainty with visa eligibility. Financial stress with some not eligible for support. Accessing English classes. Access to specialist medical services. Limitations or restrictions on visa.
Does the community have access to support services to address these issues?	Uncertainty about who is responsible and who to be contacted. Community shame is a barrier, people are fearful of reporting. Many can be disconnected from community and the Mosque can be a barrier. Mutually support each other. Many issues hidden and not discussed.	School based supports have been helpful. Require education on family violence, crime, drugs and alcohol. In adolescent ages there is poor behaviour, parental conflict, crime, drugs and alcohol. Confusion with road rules. Need for parenting and education programs.	A priority area is gaining access to legal support and advice in sponsoring family members and citizenship applications both of which can take a very long time. Feel like the Australia is not helping them and the government is against them. Unable to travel as there is a lack of understanding of Government and Centrelink rules and regulations. Relationships with service providers is good and based on a caring relationship. Red Cross and large agencies advocate on behalf of communities to government.	Would be useful to have supervised youth activities. Community leaders provide great support. Service providers to respect family values and reinforce parental advice. Cultural awareness sessions can help.	Community is unsure of mental health issues and how to access services. Counselling provided has not been helpful. Asylum seekers are not aware of services they are eligible for and who to contact. Usually direct questions to Red Cross.

<p>What employment opportunities are available locally for people in your community?</p>	<p>Language is an ongoing barrier to participation. Those on Bridging Visas have difficulty. Permanent visa have opportunity to work mainly factory or farms. No security in casual work. Community is very keen to work.</p>	<p>Low education reduces work pathways and most work in factories or farms. Access to tertiary education limited by English proficiency. Understanding cultural differences.</p>	<p>Those that succeed in getting employment usually have good English skills.</p>	<p>Community networks have helped develop employment pathways although limited experience can be a barrier. Job network providers can feel impersonal and be disheartening. Good employment performances by individuals helps others gain work by creating a good impression. Better study and training options need to be explored with a long term focus. Benefits of voluntary work. Employers being comfortable with workplace diversity and have an understanding of cultural competence. Having good interview skills and confidence to self-promote is difficult for some.</p>	<p>Language is a barrier and there are few opportunities. Employers appear reluctant to employ short term visa holders. Many pick fruit but are concerned that labour contractors take large amounts and workers receive little payment. Scared they will lose jobs if they complain so accept poor conditions. Apply for jobs but never hear outcome. Contractor state rates of pay but nobody knows if this is correct.</p>
<p>Is missing family due to war or conflict prevalent in your community?</p>	<p>Safety of family offshore is an ongoing concern</p>	<p>Family overseas and uncertainty over reunification increases anxiety and family pressures. DIBP delays in processing and unfair processes.</p>	<p>Concerns impact community.</p>	<p>Common issue.</p>	<p>Being away from family and children is stressful and a big issue. Feel responsible to provide financial support.</p>