



MEDIA RELEASE – 92.1 FM
Monday, 10.3.08 : 1-2 pm

“Migrant Resource Centre (Sth) Inc – Update”
Interview outline with Vikki Miteff

1) Vikki: Cedric, I know there are many new projects underway this year at the Migrant Resource Centre. Can you please give a quick summary of what is happening this year?

Cedric: Thank you Vikki. There are many new projects happening in the Migrant Resource Centre Community Partners Program.

- **Firstly, a new partnership has been announced between the Community Partners Program and the Diversional Therapy Association of Tasmania. Diversional Therapists who work in Aged Care facilities are integral to the enhancement of the lifestyle of residents in Aged Care facilities.**

On Wednesday the 27th of February, 2008 the Migrant Resource Centre and The Diversional Therapy Association of Tasmania celebrated signing a partnership agreement between the organisations. Held at 2.30 pm in the Acacia Meeting Room of the Migrant Resource Centre, 49 Molle Street, Hobart, the event was well attended by Migrant Resource Centre staff and diversional therapists from around the state.

The Partnership Agreement outlines the commitment of the Migrant Resource Centre & Diversional Therapy Association of Tasmania to work collaboratively to provide better services and support for older members of Tasmania's migrant communities living in residential aged care around the State.

This partnership means that there will be:

- A better understanding of the needs and communication styles of migrant communities
- A new and beneficial partnership between migrant communities and residential aged care services

It is expected that the partnership will provide advice and assistance in relation to the current issues for migrant community residents in residential aged care. This will be guided by the Migrant Resource Centre's Community Partners Program which now works jointly with Diversional Therapists and Leisure and Lifestyle staff from around Tasmania.

The Migrant Resource Centre's Community Partners Program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

The Community Partnership between the two organisations will include consultation and information to community members to ensure appropriate service provision with respect to lifestyle including culture, language, food and leisure activities. The partnership will also support community development, education and training opportunities for members of both organisations as appropriate. Where relevant it will provide referrals and links to other communities and aged care services.

The migrant communities in Tasmania represent a vital component of a thriving society and the ageing experience brings unique challenges that deserve our focused attention

and energy. It is the ambition of the partnership to develop pathways for dialogue that promote free and open expression of the concerns and hopes of these communities for the type and style of care they may look forward to in the future, in Tasmania.

The launch was attended by a number of community members and representatives from DoHA, MRC, Advocacy Tasmania and Diversional Therapists who expressed enthusiasm at the opportunity for more access to community representatives, information and resources to further facilitate meeting the needs of Cultural And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in Tasmania.

- **Secondly, the Community Partners Program has employed 4 Bi-cultural Workers in the South and 3 in the North of the state. The Bi-cultural Workers will increase their knowledge and information of residential and community aged care. This will further enhance the resources of their communities by providing information and support regarding the access of aged care services and support for aged care facilities.**

On behalf of Marianne Potma, Suzanne Feike and myself, I would like to welcome the following people to the MRC Team within the CPP program of the Frail Aged Team:-

- CPP German Bi-cultural Worker South - Birgit Tanase
- CPP Philippine Bi-cultural Worker South - Mary Ann P. Nabatar
- CPP Dutch Bi-cultural Worker South - Karin Clem de Vries
- CPP Chinese Bi-cultural Worker South - Fred Yee
- CPP Philippines Bicultural Worker North - Evelyn Vandersteen
- CPP Dutch Bicultural Worker North - Josi Verhoeven
- CPP German Bicultural Worker North - Friede Wiener

All Bi-cultural workers will be working a total of 30 hours over a period of 10 weeks and will be attending the CPP statewide forum on May 6th, 2008. Special thanks to Suzanne and Marianne for their efforts and attention to detail in the recruitment of these wonderful new members of our organization.

- **Thirdly, the Community Partners Program is planning a State-wide Forum on 6th May at Campbell Town for Community members, Aged Care Services and Diversional Therapists from around the State.**

The CPP State wide Forum will:

- provide opportunities for CPP to link communities and diversional therapists

- provide a long term commitment to communities, specifically the Dutch, Chinese, German, Philippine, Croatian, Hungarian and Ukrainian communities.
- provide training for the Bi-cultural Workers by attending the State wide forum
- enhance and increase the dispersion of resources
- strengthen the partnership between CPP and the Diversional Therapy Association

The benefits of a CPP State wide Forum are:

- adding value to the existing CPP program and endorsing DoHA's policy for *Aged care – Securing the future of aged care for Australians – additional support for services for people in remote and very remote areas and with special needs* by utilizing a genuine partnership
 - increase CPP's commitment to isolated CALD communities in Tasmania and providing pathways to residential and community care with authentic interaction and community ownership of the partnership
 - providing and supporting aged care service linkages with communities and CCAT
 - supporting aged care facilities in rural and remote areas through facilitating linkages between the communities and aged care facilities, by developing linkages with diversional therapy services within residential care and facilitating participation in meeting the social, spiritual, cultural needs of their members
 - enabling remote and rural CALD communities in Tasmania to access information and resources normally only available in the Hobart
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