

Strength of Sharing – How to get the most from your settlement network

Background

Representing over 25 key services, the Yarra Settlement Forum (YSF) is regarded as a Local Settlement Planning Committee (LSPC) by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Broadly, the role of an LSPC is to coordinate the settlement of newly arrived migrants and refugees.

Challenges

The YSF has encountered some challenges including:

- Problematic policy expectations;
- Time and human resource constraints;
- Barriers to taking direct action;
- Difficulties in defining success and effectiveness;
- Limited self promotion opportunities.

Recommendations

The YSF has some recommendations of how to get the most out of your local settlement network including:

- Have a strong structure which supports planning, implementation and evaluation;
- Think global, act local;
- Encourage individual initiative but remember a shared voice is a stronger voice;
- Focus on the process, not just outcomes;
- Promote your network.

Commitment to Health

Since 2001, North Yarra Community Health has shared the leadership of the Yarra Settlement Forum with the City of Yarra.

NYCH's strong commitment to health has meant that a focus on health has become one of the guiding forces for the YSF.



Refugee Week working group

Approaches

The YSF has played a significant role in developing creative sustainable solutions to health and settlement needs through:

- Planning and evaluation;
- Discussion forums and information exchange;
- Facilitating important health promotion events;
- Research; and
- Advocacy.

Achievements

Some of the successes the YSF has experienced are:

- Increased access to settlement services for refugees and migrants;
- Strengthened social capital;
- Development of new projects and services in response to unmet settlement needs;
- Strengthened partnerships through a sharing of resources, information and support between service providers;
- More responsive policy.

Contact

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