

**Abstract Title:**      **Contenance in Ethnic Communities: the influence of cultural perceptions, practices and attitudes on the prevention, treatment and management of incontinence**

**Author:**                **Deborah Manning**

Victorian Continence Resource Centre

### **Introduction:**

The Contenance in Ethnic Communities project aims to destigmatise and raise awareness of incontinence among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. In particular, it will explore how cultural perceptions, practices and attitudes influence the prevention and treatment of incontinence. Limited information about perceptions of incontinence among CALD communities is known. The project will present a review of available evidence concerning incontinence in CALD communities and barriers to prevention and treatment, including a summary of findings from consultation with CALD communities about these issues.

### **Materials & Methods:**

Key objectives:

1. To identify the cultural influences, issues and barriers concerning the prevention, treatment and management of incontinence in CALD communities
2. People from CALD communities and staff in the health, community and aged care sectors increase awareness of incontinence and the culturally appropriate information and support needs of CALD communities.

Outcomes will be presented based on the key strategies undertaken which included development of partnerships with key stakeholders and representative CALD groups, a review of the literature and continence service utilisation data and consultation outcomes with CALD communities.

### **Results:**

Incontinence is a health issue that affects all people, regardless of cultural background. The project outcomes will highlight perceptions and attitudes towards incontinence in CALD communities. These findings will assist in improving access of CALD groups to culturally appropriate continence information and services.