

A review of research on older CALD populations in Australia: Promoting translation of research into aged care practices

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Australia's older population is growing at a rapid rate and becoming more diversified. Over 1.34 million Australians aged 50+ years were born in a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) country, this equates to 19.4 per cent of all Australians aged 50 years and over. These figures are even more confronting if we consider ageing within specific ethnic groups in Australia. For example, 88.4 per cent of all Italian born Australians are now aged 50 years and over and 87.9 per cent of those born in Greece are currently aged 50+ years. Many older people in this CALD cohort will have very little experience of aged care services in Australia, having generally grown older without any experiences of using that system for their own parents or older family members, making understanding *any* system of aged care services a challenge.

Australian research on issues relating to older people from CALD backgrounds to date has been at best sporadic leaving opportunities for evidence-based research that will allow for the translation of research into practice. Anecdotal evidence from service providers tells us that there are and will continue to be substantial barriers and a lack of understanding toward providing culturally appropriate care to meet the needs of the growing number and diversity of the older CALD community. It is imperative that services are provided to older CALD groups with a targeted, evidence-based approach. The translation of research into practice requires identifying what research evidence is available, which population groups and what areas of service delivery it is applicable to, and what the gaps in current research are in order to promote better practice, stronger collaborative partnerships and better outcomes for all older people from CALD backgrounds. Research on issues relating to older people from CALD

backgrounds to date has been at best sporadic leaving opportunities for evidence-based practice and the translation of research into practice problematic.

This presentation will explore results of a review of the existing literature and data available in Australia about older CALD populations. This review has allowed for identification of current research evidence and gaps where further knowledge about best meeting the needs of this population group is required. Available research about older CALD populations will be discussed to enable CALD aged care service providers to base future program development on a strong evidence base. Recommendations for further research will also be identified.