

MEDIA RELEASE
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Somewhere over the Rainbow

- More social support for LGBTQTIQ+ arrivals in Perth
- Award-winning multicultural community services organisation flies the rainbow flag.

Multicultural LGBTQTIQ+ immigrants arriving in Perth from the far corners of the globe can find social support through a project called Rainbow Migrants.

Funded by the WA State Government's Office of Multicultural Interests, the project was launched earlier this year as a 12-month pilot and has identified a need for more support for new arrivals into Perth who identify as sexually and culturally diverse.

Many of these immigrants have been subjected to marginalisation, discrimination and even abuse in their home countries and choose to relocate to Australia because of the rights and protection they are afforded here. However, they find it difficult to connect with like-minded community members and services due to cultural and language barriers.

The Rainbow Migrants project is being run by award-winning charity Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc, whose founder Anna Harrison was recently cited as a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to multiculturalism in Australia and to aged care.

Headed by University of Western Australia academic Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski, the project's primary goal is to provide social support and advocacy for LGBTQTIQ+ migrants from multicultural backgrounds, regardless of age, visa status, education, abilities, or English language proficiency. The project aims to foster social connectivity, intergenerational and intercultural understanding.

In partnership with the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre, Dr Krzyzowski is currently running free weekly information sessions on issues impacting LGBTQTIQ+ migrants. Topics include cyberbullying and navigating the housing tenancy system. He is also offering training sessions to government departments and the private sector and recently ran a successful workshop for the Water Corporation in Perth.

Rainbow Migrants is also holding an inclusive event called "Karaoke with an Accent," a Eurovision-themed singing competition for members of the Perth LGBTQTIQ+ community from multicultural backgrounds. It will be hosted by Connections Nightclub from 7.30pm to 10pm on Saturday, 23 September 2023 and entry is free.

"The more work we do in this space, the more we identify the gap in social support and networking opportunities for LGBTQTIQ+ migrants who now call Perth home," said Dr Krzyzowski. "I am grateful to Umbrella Inc for supporting this project."

For more information on Rainbow Migrants or the "Karaoke with an Accent" event, contact rms@umbrellacommunitycare.com.au or call Umbrella Inc on 9275 4411 during office hours. You can also find us on [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

