



MEDIA RELEASE
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Bridging Health Gaps: New Initiative to Improve Cancer and Palliative Care Access for CaLD and Rainbow Migrant Communities

- **Improving Healthcare Access:** Umbrella Inc., with Palliative Care WA and Cancer Council WA, is launching a project to enhance healthcare literacy for CaLD and Rainbow Migrant communities.
- **Culturally Tailored Support:** The initiative will provide workshops, resources, and expert collaboration to improve access to palliative and cancer care services.

A groundbreaking initiative is set to enhance healthcare literacy and access for culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities and individuals with intersectional identities, including those identifying as Rainbow Migrants—a term introduced by Dr. Lukasz Krzyzowski. Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc. (Umbrella Inc.), in partnership with **Palliative Care WA** and **Cancer Council WA**, is launching the **Bridging Health Gaps: Building Capacity in Palliative Care and Cancer Prevention for CaLD and Rainbow Migrant Communities** project. This initiative is funded by the **Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI)** and will focus on breaking down cultural and language barriers to healthcare services.

Empowering communities through education

The Bridging Health Gaps project consists of two distinct but interrelated components:

1. **Culturally Responsive Palliative Care Workshops** In partnership with Palliative Care WA, this component will help enhance the awareness, accessibility, and cultural competency of community members regarding palliative care services.
2. **Cancer Education and Resource Access** In collaboration with Cancer Council WA, this initiative will improve engagement, and accessibility of supportive cancer services.

The workshops will provide targeted education, culturally relevant resources, and practical tools to empower communities to navigate supportive care and palliative support services with confidence.

Addressing barriers to healthcare access

Research shows that many CaLD and Rainbow Migrant individuals face significant barriers to accessing health services, including cultural stigma, language limitations, and lack of trust in the medical system.





This initiative will bridge these gaps by:

- Delivering culturally tailored workshops and community-led discussions
- Engaging diverse communities such as Indian, African, Italian, Croatian, and Burmese groups
- Collaborating with Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski, Director of the Rainbow Migrants Living Lab at Edith Cowan University, to engage intersectional target groups effectively.
- Providing pre- and post-workshop surveys to assess and refine the effectiveness of educational efforts
- Hosting Cancer Council WA information tables with community nurses at select events

A collaborative effort for lasting impact

Umbrella Inc CEO Henrietta Podgorska emphasised the importance of collaboration in addressing these disparities.

“Health literacy plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to care. By working closely with Palliative Care WA and Cancer Council WA, we can break down cultural and linguistic barriers that often prevent people from accessing vital health information and services,” Henrietta said.

Palliative Care WA CEO Lenka Psar-McCabe welcomed the collaboration with Umbrella Inc.

“We are delighted to partner with Umbrella to deliver this exciting project that will help CaLD and Rainbow communities to learn more about palliative care and the services available to them. We also thank the Office of Multicultural Interests for funding this important project,” Lenka said.

A Commitment to Inclusive Healthcare

This initiative aligns with national efforts to reduce health disparities and create culturally competent healthcare services. By equipping communities with knowledge and resources, the project aims to foster long-term engagement with palliative and supportive cancer care services.

Get Involved

Community members, organisations, and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the project. For more information about upcoming workshops and resources, visit www.umbrellacommunitycare.com.au or contact **(08) 9275 4411**.