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MEDIA RELEASE

Umbrella launches Connecting Cancer Care to improve access to culturally safe cancer information

Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services is proud to announce the launch of **Connecting Cancer Care**, a two-year initiative aimed at improving access to culturally safe, accessible and easy-to-understand cancer information for culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, older people and LGBTIQ+ communities.

Supported through **Cancer Australia's Supporting People with Cancer grant program**, Connecting Cancer Care will address the barriers that can make it harder for people from diverse communities to access and understand information about cancer prevention, screening and early detection, including language, low health literacy, cultural beliefs, stigma, privacy concerns, and information that can feel overly clinical or disconnected from people's lived experience.

Through Connecting Cancer Care, Umbrella will work directly with communities to better understand these barriers and develop resources **with communities, rather than for them**.

Umbrella Chief Executive Officer **Borhan Milani** said the project reflected the organisation's longstanding commitment to making health and community services more inclusive and accessible. *"Everyone should have access to clear and trusted information about their health, regardless of the language they speak, their cultural background, age or identity."*

Connecting Cancer Care gives us an important opportunity to listen directly to communities and work alongside them to develop cancer information that is not only accurate, but culturally meaningful, accessible and relevant to the people using it."

Umbrella will establish a **Connecting Cancer Care Advisory Group**, bringing together people with lived experience, community representatives, health professionals and cancer organisations to help guide the project. Community consultation will run throughout Connecting Cancer Care, including two dedicated consultation events to explore the information communities need most, preferred ways of receiving it, cultural considerations and the barriers that can prevent people from accessing cancer screening, prevention information and support, alongside ongoing engagement with community representatives. This work will begin shortly as the consultation phase gets underway.

These insights will inform the co-design of evidence-based resources covering **cancer prevention, screening, early detection, support services and information for families and carers**, developed across



accessible print, digital and multimedia formats. Community languages are expected to include **Japanese, Arabic and Italian**, along with others identified through consultation.

Connecting Cancer Care builds on learnings from Umbrella's earlier **Bridging Health Gaps** initiative, which explored the cultural, language and systemic barriers affecting access to cancer and palliative care information among diverse communities.

Resources will be developed and shared progressively throughout the project and will remain freely available through Umbrella and community networks beyond the project period.

About Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services

Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc. is a Western Australian not-for-profit organisation delivering aged care, community support and social inclusion services across the Perth metropolitan area. Umbrella works alongside culturally and linguistically diverse, older, and LGBTIQ+ communities to provide culturally safe, person-centred care that reflects the needs and identities of the people it serves.

ENDS

*Umbrella is inviting expressions of interest from **people with lived experience of cancer, family members and carers, community leaders, sector representatives, and representatives from CaLD, LGBTIQ+ and older communities** who would like to contribute to community consultation or join the **Connecting Cancer Care Advisory Group**. Please scan the QR code below:*



For all media enquiries relating to Connecting Cancer Care, please contact:

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