

24 October 2011.

The Hill;s Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre

- Dependants of skilled migrants with low English level find it hard to access interpreter service from government departments to assist with form filling.
- Lack of bi-lingual family support workers from Indian background to provide support to families in crisis such as domestic violence, sole parent families. There is an SGP worker for the Indian community which facilitates the transfer of knowledge and information to community members (especially new arrivals), thus increasing access to services. The sub continent worker sees a number of clients of Indian and Sri Lankan background as well as there are no specific ethno specific workers for them and they feel their issues are addressed in a more culturally appropriate manner by the Sub continent worker.
- DV issues
- Need for parenting workshops and understanding child rearing practices in Australia
- Opportunities for local work experience required.
- Empowerment for clients through information, knowledge, education and work experience.
- Lack knowledge of the Australian Way of Life.
- Understanding the role of DoCS in child protection and Australian legal system
- Understanding Australian governance and participatory democracy
- Provision of short courses for newly arrived people very important.
- Immediate and tangible employment for newly arrived migrants.
- Under-employment is one of the biggest issue for migrants and family entrants under this category. The need to provide for the families soon after arrival is the reason why many of these migrants pursue any job before they can focus on a career pathway.
- Need to sensitise employers to the needs of migrants.
- Need for more training related to gaining entry into the work force.
- New migrants do not get the needed level of support to find a job or plan for a pathway to enter the workforce. Centrelink only provides very minimal assistance for newly arrived job seekers.
- Difficulties in obtaining affordable, sustainable housing particularly for large families and those with single women as the head of households.
- Need to sensitise real estate agents as to needs of refugee families to minimise instances of racial prejudice
- Isolation, loneliness and guilt created by the loss and separation from extended family and social networks.
- Social isolation and mental health may become an issue for this target group.
- Need for innovative programs to engage and integrate new and emerging communities in the wider Australian society