

Developing an ethnic responsiveness strategy

Ruth DeSouza

Overview of meeting

- 10 am Tea and coffee
- 10.30 Opening with Rev Judy Cooper
- 10.40 Ann Pala
- 10.45 Message from ICA our sponsor
- 10.50-11.20 National , Regional, Local overview
- 11.30- Workshopping
 - Information
 - Connectivity
 - Participation
- 12.30-Lunch

Settlement developments

- National
- Regional
- Local

A snapshot of our population 2001

- 79% European
- 15% Maori
- 7% Pacific
- 7% Asian
- Arab, Iranian, Iraqi, African
- More than 100% because people claim multiple ethnicities



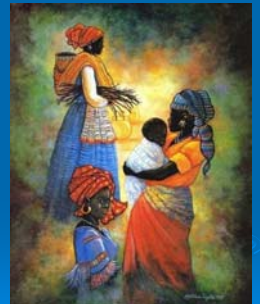
2001 Census

- More Asians than Pacific peoples (231,801)
- 1 in 15 people of Asian ethnicity (than doubled between 1991 and 2001).
- European ethnicity declined (from 83 percent to 80 percent).
- 1 in 7 people Māori.
- In the Auckland region, 1 in 8 people are of Asian ethnicity, 1 in 8 of Pacific peoples ethnicity and 1 in 10 of Māori ethnicity.



Increasing diversity (2001)

- Fastest growing ethnic groups were Korean, Arab, Croat, Iraqi, South African and Russian.
- Almost 1 in 5 New Zealand residents were born overseas.
- Rises to 1 in 3 in Auckland.
- The main countries of birth for New Zealand residents were England, Australia and Samoa.
- 1 in 9 people in Auckland were born in Asia.
- Greatest increase in counts of overseas birthplaces between 1996-2001 were China, South Africa, India, Fiji and Korea.



Linguistic and religious diversity

- 20% increase in number of multilingual people.
- Increase in people whose religion is non-Christian
 - Hindu 56%
 - Buddhist 48%
 - Islam 74%



Multiple ethnicities

- 10% of people who identified as Asian also identified with a non-Asian ethnic group eg Maori, P.I., European.
- 75% of Asians have lived in New Zealand for less than ten years.
- 75% of Asians were born overseas.



Immigration Settlement Strategy: 6 goals

- Obtain employment appropriate qualifications and skills;
- Be confident in English in a New Zealand setting, or can access appropriate language support;
- Able to access appropriate information and responsive services that are available to the wider community;
- Form supportive social networks and establish a sustainable community identity;
- Feel safe expressing their ethnic identity and are accepted by, and are part of, the wider host community; and
- Participate in civic, community and social activities.

Five key areas that align settlement outcomes with council's core business

- Identifying barriers and solutions at the local level
- Assisting and supporting migrants and refugees to access appropriate local information, advice and resources
- Assisting and supporting migrants and refugees to become connected with local communities
- Promoting and facilitating cultural maintenance
- Encouraging migrants and refugees to participate in civic affairs.

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to accessing information

- Able to access appropriate information and responsive services that are available to the wider community;

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to accessing information

Able to access appropriate information and responsive services that are available to the wider community

Notes

Language barrier – lack of English – communication difficult, helps having bi-lingual speakers and services, particularly most common languages.

Difficult to find interpreters for some less common languages – need to find interpreters who can speak some languages that we haven't heard before e.g. Kurundi

Lack of opportunities to come together as a community, about our issues in our own language, get to know each other, share our problems – need community networks for our own community especially the newer communities e.g. Korean

Council services and information can be accessed in a number of languages through telephone interpretation – also UNITEC interpreter course being developed – but also need to know that the interpretation services are available in the first place.

Council information could be translated into Chinese, large community, many older people who struggle with English – could be bi-lingual public notices so people can also gradually learn English. OEA about to launch consultation on needs of elderly – look out for information on this and participate in this.

Channel of communication to newcomers needs to be publicised so people know where to go e.g. Settlement Support service need to be publicised via media more

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to accessing information

Able to access appropriate information and responsive services that are available to the wider community

Notes

Having environment friendly and inviting when visiting and accessing services

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to connectivity

- Assisting and supporting migrants and refugees to become connected with local communities.

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to connectivity

- a) Takes time to connect outside their own community
- b) Access to information and services depends on affordable transport to these services, especially if they don't have jobs and therefore limited disposable incomes – need to think about opportunities for employment and to earn income so can access services and facilities
- c) After a few years, realise that mixing with other people is important right from the beginning, not just focus on getting jobs or connecting with own community
- d) Language is a barrier to connecting with other communities, the desire to participate is there but the English language abilities are not strong enough - need opportunities for older people to also be able to live close together to share things, knowledge, activities
- e) Need to bridge big picture with what the community needs

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to connectivity

- a) Events such as Diwali organised by WEB brings thousands of people from different communities together and enable us to share our different cultures
- b) Need to be aware that we may be coming from countries where there is collective culture whereas in NZ there is an individualistic culture
- c) Need to be aware of the needs of the elderly who are often isolated
- d) A centre for ethnic people in Waitakere is being raised by WEB
- e) Membership of WEB also enables people to connect with others from different communities

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to connectivity

- a) Simple information not accessible easily when first arrive e.g. South African doctor – could have a day for a particular community at a community centre to reduce isolation
- b) Media plays an important role in publicising services e.g. Settlement Support that are available – government needs to budget for that
- c) Council needs to make centres and facilities accessible – need to know who to contact in the community when there are issues
- d) Access (public transport) to hospital – not easy for older people
- e) School system is very different here – parents give priority to employment, but here, they need to participate as we have a school-community model e.g. become member of Board of Trustees, parents association, teacher aide. Need parents to provide support for children to settle into community and the school

Today's workshop

Barriers and enablers to participation

- Encouraging migrants and refugees to participate in civic affairs
- Diversity within the migrant and refugee community e.g. parents, young mums, elderly, adolescents, Islamic women – unique needs
- www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz