

Title: The Odyssey Multicultural Transitions program, *Challenges and resilience of people from CALD background transitioning from custody setting to the community.*

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Background:

Transitions is a unique program designed to support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) individuals in custody to reintegrate into community successfully. Transitioning from custodial setting to the community comes with many challenges especially for people from CALD background. These challenges include trauma from migration experiences, mental health conditions, stigma, unemployment, limited proficiency in English and challenges in navigating the support system in the community.

Description of Intervention: Transitions sets out to reduce harms associated with Alcohol and drug use (AOD) within a culturally appropriate model. It is an intensive case management support program initiated to provide support to people from CALD background exiting custody, to reintegrate them to their families and community. The program objective is to reduce recidivism and prevent relapse of AOD.

Implementation: The case worker and client interaction start whilst the client is within the custodial environment. Developing a case plan, creating awareness about changes and challenges in the community and having initial contact with the family constitute the pre support phase. The post custodial support includes weekly meeting to address issues of accommodation, AOD misuse, mental health, Identity documents, stigma, advocacy to access services, employment support and providing referral to appropriate support services.

Conclusion: Transitions clients appreciate the comprehensive support system to transit from custody to community. The support given to the clients addresses their unique challenges such as trauma, stigma, employment barriers, and language proficiency, effectively reducing recidivism and preventing relapse into AOD. By incorporating cultural insights and language-specific services into its approach, the clients receive tailored, culturally sensitive interventions in enhancing their individual wellbeing.

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