



# Cultural Competency In HIV Work And Community Mobilisation

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## Acknowledgement



# Our work context



**Ottawa charter for health promotion**

- Build Healthy Public Policy
- Create Supportive Environments
- Develop Personal Skills
- Reorient Health Services

**RASA organisational values**

- Diversity
- Respect
- Belonging
- Learning

**SA Health's Strategy**

SA HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and STI Implementation Plan

Key priority Areas

- 1- Prevention
- 2- Testing
- 3- Management, care and Support
- 4- Workforce
- 5- Enabling Environment
- 6- Surveillance, Research and Evaluation

Over the last 10 years, PEACE Multicultural Services has worked with CALD communities in South Australia to help them understand the context of HIV in Australia, its impact on their communities, and how to be involved in addressing the associated issues.



## Why HIV infection thrives

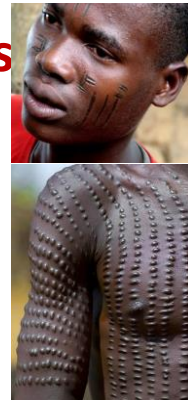
CERTAIN CULTURAL PRACTICES

GENDER ISSUES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

HEALTH LITERACY

STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION



# Our Approach



Community development approach that promotes knowledge, skills and behaviours around BBV/STI prevention and treatment.

Key focus area include:

- Community Education
- Building community capacity
- Peer support
- Client services
- Workforce development
- Networks and linkages



- Identifying and understanding community structure and dynamics,
- Identifying pathways to access the community engaging with key stakeholders to gain community's understanding of the issue,
- develop structures around community stakeholders to support and guide PEACE's program,
- support community stakeholders to start similar discussions in their communities and create opportunity for PEACE to access their communities.



# Outcome

The African community in South Australia shifted from the stage of complete denial of HIV in the community and reluctance to engage to now

- openly having discussions about HIV and sexual health

SAACHAC  
 CALD WOMEN  
 FAITH LEADERS  
 MULTICULTURAL YOUTH DRIVE



# Outcome

- Contribute to developing resources and campaign to promote safe and respectful relationships and encourage testing

## TRAVEL SAFE HIV TESTING RESOURCE



<p>GET TESTED</p> <p>GET TREATED</p> <p>LIVE LONGER</p> <p>PEACE WILL BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU</p>	<p>GET TESTED</p>	<p>Testing is the key to a healthy journey.</p> <p>It is important for everyone to get tested because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Australia HIV transmissions often occur through people who don't know their HIV status.</li> <li>2. Knowing your HIV status gives you peace of mind and the opportunity to start treatment early if needed.</li> <li>3. Testing is easy, free, fast, confidential and anonymous.</li> </ol> <p>Just drop in at Clinix27 on health services, make an appointment with any of the SA clinics or present to your local GP clinic.</p> <p>Call PEACE Multicultural Services on 1800 774 614 for further information and support.</p>	<p>GET TREATED</p>	<p>Treatment is the starting point of managing the virus.</p> <p>In Australia, all people have access to quality treatment that helps control the virus. Specialist doctors encourage all people diagnosed with HIV to be on treatment as soon as possible because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Taking medication as per your doctor's instruction and at the right time will help you manage the virus.</li> <li>2. Treatment will make your immune system stronger to fight the virus.</li> <li>3. HIV treatment is easily accessible and affordable.</li> </ol> <p>Call PEACE Multicultural Services on 1800 774 614 for further information and support.</p>	<p>PEACE Multicultural Services</p> <p>PEACE is a not-for-profit organisation providing information, support, counselling and advocacy for people experiencing family violence.</p> <p>Relationships Australia SA</p>
<p>TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE</p>	<p>LIVE LONGER</p>	<p>Enjoy your life. HIV is just a virus, not who you are.</p> <p>HIV should never be a barrier to living the life you desire. With the right treatment the virus can be controlled with medication. There are many ways in which you can improve your overall wellbeing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eat a healthy and balanced diet.</li> <li>2. Be active, do regular exercise and avoid smoking.</li> <li>3. Attend regular health check-ups.</li> <li>4. Get to know the available services that can help you lead a healthy life.</li> </ol> <p>Call PEACE Multicultural Services on 1800 774 614 for further information and support.</p>	<p>PEP</p>	<p>Don't wait, take action now!</p> <p>PEP stands for Post Exposure Prophylaxis. It is a medication that may prevent HIV if it is taken immediately after an incident where there is a risk of possible exposure to HIV. The following information is very important for PEP to be most effective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The medication must be taken as early as possible, within the first 72 hours of possible exposure to HIV.</li> <li>2. The medication must be taken for 28 days as directed by health care professionals.</li> <li>3. PEP medication can be accessed through emergency departments in all major hospitals.</li> <li>4. Call the PEP line on 1800 022 226 - 28 days or more available.</li> </ol>	<p>PEACE WILL BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU</p>



# Outcome



Taking a stand against stigma and discrimination



Relationships Australia SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION: SAACHAC VIDEO



## Conclusion



- Changing people's culture, values, perception and attitudes is a process. It takes time and can be challenging, but is worth the effort.
- Cultural understanding and competency, and committing to the process of change are key elements for success in engaging and mobilising communities to action in addressing issues affecting them.
- Involving affected communities in addressing issues of concern to them is important in addressing taboo issue such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- Engaging and mobilising Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities to action requires an understanding of the sociocultural influences affecting the issue and how to navigate the cultural terrain in a safe and respectful way.





# How can we engage in meaningful ways with the communities we work with?



# Acknowledgement



- SA Health
- Relationships Australia SA
- Communities and stakeholders
- PEACE Team



# References



WHO: Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. First International Conference on Health Promotion, Ottawa, 21 November 1986. <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/previous/ottawa/en/index1.html>.

