

## **ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES IN ACCESSING SUPPORT RE HIV AND RELATED INFECTIONS FOR SEX WORKERS WHO ARE ALSO CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE PERSONS OF MIGRANT STATUS OR BACKGROUND.**

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**Background/Approach:** Numerous barriers exist to migrant sex workers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds accessing support: These include language and isolation, gender, political, race discrimination, stigma attached to sex work and the criminalization of sex work..

**Methods:** Peer outreach and education and original programs and resources are produced by the Multicultural Project in language in consultation with each community/language/cultural group, often with a Steering Committee drawn from the language/cultural group targeted and with Focus Testing within that language/cultural group.

Programs and resources for CALD persons of migrant status or background are not produced in English by persons who are not CALD and then translated into target group languages. Separate programs and resources are produced from scratch for each community/language/cultural group, by sex working members of that group and are each produced in a different language.

**Outcomes/Results:** Isolation, gender, political, race discrimination, and stigmas and myths attached to CALD migrant sex workers have been recognized as stronger barriers than language and the important input of the CALD migrant sex worker community to overcoming barriers is now proven. Since the inception of the Project STI infections among CALD sex workers have fallen dramatically and the virtual elimination of HIV from the sex industry continues.

**Conclusions/Applications:** During the life of the Project we have identified and developed applications to practice that help overcome key barriers experienced by CALD migrant sex workers. These include: peer held interagency training, peer translated resources, peer interpreting support, workplace outreach, industry specific health and safety training workshops provided in sex workers' first languages and peer supported to access culturally responsive services.