

TRANSLATING A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AOD TREATMENT MODEL TO NEW POPULATIONS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRE

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Introduction:

The Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)'s outpatient counselling service in Liverpool, Sydney has developed its own culturally responsive model of service provision (Rowe, 2013) in order to enhance the engagement, retention and outcomes of multicultural communities in AOD treatment.

In 2017 DAMEC has opened a new service in Blacktown, an area with a significantly different demographic profile. This presentation will discuss issues arising from applying DAMEC's culturally responsive model to three new communities: Farsi, Pacific Islander and African.

Discussions and Conclusions:

The core elements of DAMEC's culturally responsive model remain relevant across communities. Eco-systemic considerations of ethnic/cultural factors in treatment, such as the impacts of migration, inter-generational dynamics, cultural disconnection, discrimination and refugee experiences need to be balanced within an approach that recognises individual clients' differing circumstances (influenced by gender, socio-economic resources, age and physical/mental health), strengths, capabilities and treatment goals. However new client engagement strategies have been necessary to take into account varying community structures, communication preferences and community-identified issues of concern. Examples from clinical practice will illustrate how other practitioners can enhance their approach to working with clients from these three communities.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

DAMEC Western Sydney is funded by WentWest PHN.