

# **SOUTH WEST SYDNEY CALD COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

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**Background/Approach:** Key Informant interviews and community surveys were undertaken with targeted cultural groups across South Western Sydney (SWS). The aim was to investigate the reproductive and sexual health (R&SH) concerns experienced by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members to inform future health promotion activities

**Analysis/Argument:** A thematic analysis was conducted to identify common themes emerging from the interview and survey findings.

**Outcome/Results:** Sixty six people aged 25-60 who were born in India, Lebanon, Iraq, Vietnam, China, and Syria that reside in SWS completed surveys. Eight Key Informants (KI) participated in 30 minute semi-structured interviews. KIs identified as being from, or working closely with one or more of the targeted cultural groups.

Specific issues arising from interviews and surveys included:

- Fear of breast and cervical cancers
- High levels of concern around infertility, preventing pregnancy or spacing out children, maintaining a healthy relationship, problems with sexual performance, and being made to have unwanted sex
- Men being worried about contracting sexually transmissible infections (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

General findings included:

- A lack of knowledge of R&SH services among community members and service providers
- General Practitioners (GPs) were viewed as valuable and trusted sources of health information
- Community members want to learn about R&SH in the context of religion

**Conclusions/Applications:** Based on these findings Family Planning NSW has put multiple strategies into place to address the needs identified among the community. These include:

- Working with religious leaders to deliver R&SH information in the context of religion.
- Working with local GPs to create awareness of Family Planning NSW services and referral pathways.
- Developing low literacy, plain English resources on fertility, cervical screening, STI's and contraception.
- Investigating a need for respectful relationships programs in local schools.

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