



## South west Sydney CALD community needs assessment

### Background

- South West Sydney (SWS) is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia. By better understanding community needs, services can be tailored to meet these needs.
- CALD people often have poorer health than the Australian born population. This is inclusive of reproductive and sexual health (RSH).



## Needs assessment methods

- Data was collected through community surveys and Key Informant (KI) interviews.
- KIs and community members were recruited through community organisations in SWS.
- Sixty six (66) CALD community members participated in the survey.
- Eight (8) KIs participated in semi-structured interviews.

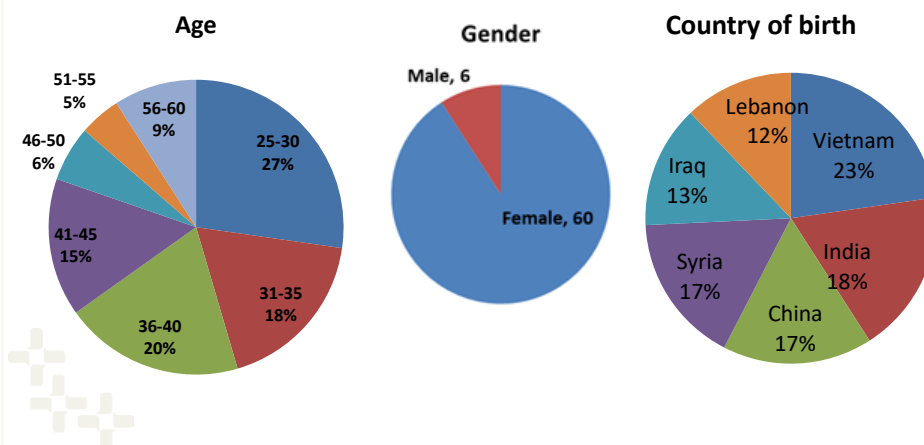


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Study no. R2015-11



## Survey participant characteristics



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## Results

The Key findings of the interviews and surveys included:

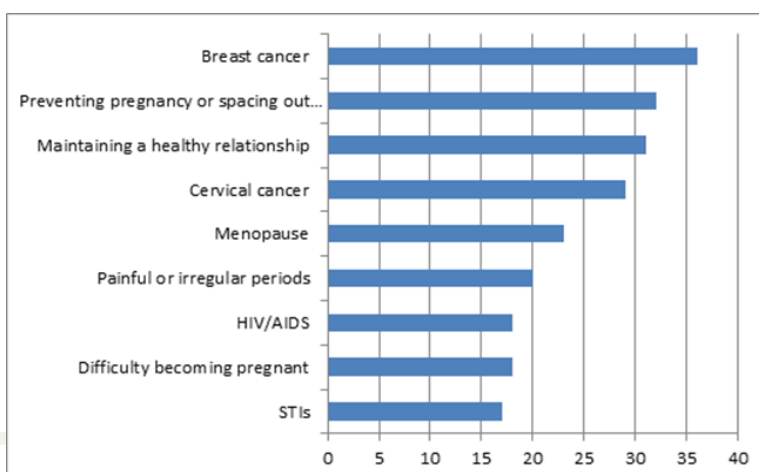
- Low knowledge of RSH services among community members and service providers.
- CALD women are often expected to have multiple children.
- Key concerns identified across all cultural groups:
  - breast and cervical cancers
  - infertility
  - preventing pregnancy or spacing out children
  - maintaining a healthy relationship.

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## Top issues of concern across all cultural groups



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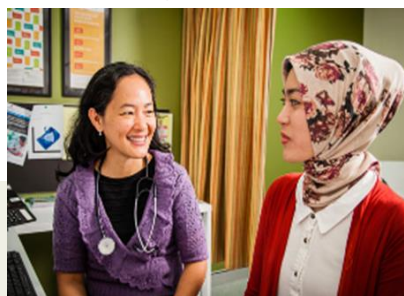
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## Results cont.

- Concerns among Iraqi and Lebanese survey participants:
  - problems with sexual performance
  - being made to have unwanted sex.
- sources of health information among community members.
- Community members want to learn about R&SH in the context of religion.

- General Practitioners (GPs) were viewed as valuable and trusted



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## Barriers to accessing RSH services and information

- Language barriers
- Poor literacy, even in peoples own language
- Not having enough time or having competing priorities
- Not knowing where or how to access health services or information
- Shame and embarrassment when accessing services and information
- Concerns with confidentiality when disclosing sensitive information

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## Application of findings

- Working with religious leaders to deliver RSH information in the context of religion.
- Development of a series of audio-visual stories of clients accessing Family Planning NSW clinics to create awareness of and normalise RSH health among CALD communities.



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## Application of findings cont.

- Investigating the need for respectful relationships programs in local schools.
- Working with local GPs to promote referral pathways and increase access to quality RSH care.
- Developing low literacy, plain English paper based and online resources on fertility, cervical screening, STIs and contraception.
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## Disclosure of interest

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## Thank you / Questions

Steph Ross  
Senior Health Promotion Officer - CALD  
Family Planning NSW

[stephanier@fpnsw.org.au](mailto:stephanier@fpnsw.org.au)



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