

# Aged Care Diversity Framework

## Resource Sheet 1 Introduction to this Resource

Aged care clients come from a range of diverse backgrounds. Diversity is reflected in the religious, spirituality, sexuality, cultural, socio-economic background, geographic spread and personal experiences of the older population. The Australian Government has acknowledged that older people with diverse needs may face additional challenges when they attempt to access the aged care system.

In February 2017, the then Minister for Ageing and Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt, established the Aged Sector Committee Diversity Sub-group. The Aged Care Diversity Framework, released December 2017, is the outcome of the Committee's work after wide consultation. The Framework identifies 12 diverse population groups amongst older people.

This resource has been developed by Inner West Sector Support and Development auspiced by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, utilising Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health. The resource is designed as an introduction to the Framework, its four action plans and to the key issues affecting older people with diverse needs' engagement with the aged care system.

The resource consists of a series of individual information sheets covering:

- an overview of the Aged Care Diversity Framework
- an overview of the four action plans targeting:
  - all diverse older people
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
  - people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
  - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex elders
- an introduction to trauma informed care practice
- each of the 12 diverse groups including background information, key issues affecting access and engagement
- links to further information and available resources about each of the identified diverse groups.

All funded aged care providers need to understand and be responsive to the experiences and needs of people from diverse backgrounds.

Providers are strongly encouraged through the Aged Care Quality Standards to develop and implement strategies that address inequities in access to their services either through specific Diversity Action Plans or their Strategic Plans.