

The Mechanics of Supporting Carers to Meet Cultural Needs

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Foster Care Association of Victoria

- 1850 Victorian Foster Carers
- Phone Support
- Advocacy
- Research
- Information Eg. Training, newsletter, FB, Twitter







Betti Gabriel



Culture



Definition of CALD

- CALD-Culturally And Linguistically Diverse
- those individuals who were either born overseas, or whose parents and/or grandparents were born overseas, and speak a language other than English



Project Goals

- Identify the proportion of carers caring for CALD children
- Identify number using our support service.
- Develop resources to help carers with cultural information
- Increase cultural competence in the community

Identify the proportion of carers caring for CALD children and young people

- Consult with Foster Care agencies about their CALD data
- Mini carer survey:
 - 1. Have you fostered a child or young person in the last 6 months?
 - 2. To the best of your knowledge have you cared for a child or young person from a different cultural background, in the last 6 months?
- 90 respondents; 30 caring for CALD children

Identify the proportion of callers caring for CALD children to our Support Service

- Modifications to Database to capture:
- if a carer was caring for a CALD child,
- the number of carers asking us for CALD advice

Develop Cultural Resources

- Consulted with organisations specialising in culture
- New information sheets- Cultural Awareness
 - Life Story Work
- Ongoing research of cultural holidays
- Information sharing about culture through our newsletter to over 4,000 members
- Updating our website to include cultural resources.

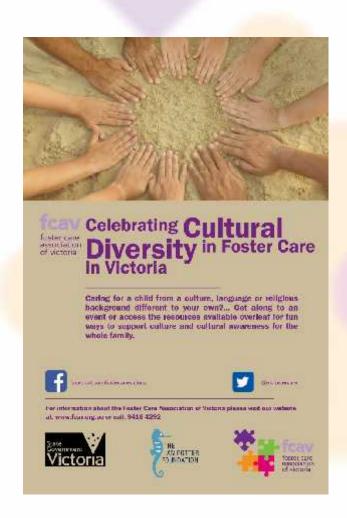
Develop Cultural Resources

- Surveyed Foster Care Agencies:
- What cultural competence training do your staff have access to?
- Is cultural competence training available to carers through your agency?
- 4 out of 6 agencies responded:
- No consistent cultural awareness training, although more emphasis on Aboriginal cultural competency

Increase the cultural competency in the community- carers contacting the Association

- Carer Survey
- Cultural information and support to carer
- Cultural Postcard

Cultural Postcard





Increase the cultural competence of FCAV staff and board

- Cultural Training-External
- Cultural information sheets revised
- Survey- Baseline August 2015
 - Follow-Up May 2016
- New CALD information highlighted at team and staff meetings
- Cultural Training for FCAV staff and board by Victorian Multicultural Commission

Survey Results



- Q2. On a scale of 1-5 how would you rate your current knowledge of different cultures
- Q3. How confident are you in supporting carers caring for CALD children?
- Q4. How culturally aware would you rate FCAV?

Findings

- Data on CALD children in care is currently scarce/non-existent.
- Carers and agency staff would like to have this information.
- Carers aware of the importance of a CALD child's culture
- Carers are willing, resourceful, and proactive in accessing information

Carer Survey Results

On a scale of 1-5 how would you rate your current knowledge of different cultures

Rating	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High	Total
No. of Carers	4	10	44	33	10	101
% of Carers	3.96%	9.90%	43.56%	32.67%	9.9%	

How confident are you in supporting children from diverse cultural backgrounds?

Rating	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High	Total
No. of Carers	3	5	31	41	20	100
% of Carers	3%	5%	31%	41%	20%	

"Because I believe in its importance, I will do whatever is necessary to connect a child to their culture"

"Experience-what I don't know I will ask about"

"I have some kn<mark>owledge and</mark> know where to seek more"

What support would you like in relation to understanding diverse cultures better?

Answer Choices	No. of Carers	% of carers
Specific CALD training	52	54.17%
Information from CSO	37	38.54%
Telephone Support when required	57	59.38%
Information Sheets	61	63.54%

"I would like their cultural community to visit our house"

"Information sheets should come with the child - even for respite / emergency care."

Where would you seek support for cultural issues?

Answer Choices	No. of carers	% of carers
Your community service agency	71	73.96%
FCAV	37	38.54%
Multicultural agency eg. MRC, VICSEG	45	46.88%
CWiMe	3	3.13%
Don't know	13	13.54%

How culturally aware would you rate FCAV?

Rating	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High	Total	Average
No. of carers	3	7	36	25	21	92	3.59
% of Carers	3.26%	7.61%	39.13%	27.17%	22.83%		

Where to from here?

- Continue raising awareness
- Ongoing collaboration with sector colleagues
- Continue developing useful resources
- Bottom line: culture to be front-of-mind for carers and agencies, so our children have the best possible outcomes, and have a sense of belonging.

Case Study



Final Words

- Carers need more information so that they feel more prepared to meet the cultural requirements of the child
- It's very simple really; to be culturally competent there are 2 tasks:
- Don't make assumptions
- Ask questions

Questions



Resources

- Kaur, J. (2014) Culturally Sensitive Practice in Out-of-Home Care: A Good Practice Guide to supporting children and youth from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Queensland, Australia
- Kaur, J (2012) Cultural Diversity and Child Protection A review of the Australian research on the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and refugee children and families
- Kaur, J (2012) Scoping Study on Number of CALD & Refugee Children and Young people in OOHC in Victoria

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