

MACARTHUR REGIONAL SETTLEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

MISSION

To plan and implement strategies to ensure a regional holistic approach to settlement needs of migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants in Macarthur

MEMBERS

This committee is open to all who are interested and concerned for the well being of the newly arrived and emerging CALD communities, particularly migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants.

PRIORITY FOR 2005-2006

Macarthur Regional Settlement Planning Committee seeks to increase awareness of the issues affecting migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants in Macarthur.

The first 5 years of arrival of migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants are considered the 'settling years'. Settlement is the period of adjustment migrants and refugees experience before they can fully participate in Australia's culturally diverse society.

This project came about because of the recent developments within DIMIA-funded settlement services, which includes early intervention and needs-based targeting.

There is an increasing emphasis on early intervention and needs-based targeting within DIMIA-funded services as part of a wider trend within government policy. There is a growing consensus within Australian social policy that, by intervening early to address emerging social issues, government agencies can improve overall outcomes and make downstream saving by reducing later expenditure on entrenched social problems. Targeting interventions towards those most in need helps to manage demand for services and ensure that interventions are appropriate to the level of need.

Early access to appropriate settlement services enables new arrivals to move towards active economic and social participation in Australian society as self-reliant and valued members.

The committee is looking at any issues and concerns that faces newly arrived migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants to Macarthur and look into possible solutions.

RECOMMENDATION 24

That DIMIA develop and implement, by October 2004, a more proactive, thorough, consistent, transparent, consultative and regional needs-based planning process for its own services and to inform the planning of mainstream agencies

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