

## ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ISSUES

### Setting the agenda on multicultural youth issues

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) is a community based organisation that advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

In supporting young people, CMYI combines policy development and direct service delivery within a community development framework. This approach gives CMYI strong connections with young people and their communities while enabling positive change on a local, state and national level.

### Enhancing life opportunities for young people

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues undertakes:

- Service delivery;
- Policy advice;
- Information provision and research;
- Sector development;
- Leadership and mentoring;
- Training and community education.

### Policy

CMYI's policy work is wide-ranging and diverse. It incorporates advice to government, resource development, research, policy submissions, information provision, training, support to workers, and providing media commentary on issues affecting culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people.

Core policy areas include: youth participation, sport and recreation, crime prevention, social harmony and racism, family and community, refugee youth resettlement, education, training and employment.

### Support to young people

CMYI's program team works with newly arrived and refugee young people and their families. Direct support provided through regionally based services assist young people to build connections with home, school and community and access pathways to education, training and employment.

The team operates within a holistic, strengths-based practice framework that situates young people within the family context.

[www.cmyi.net.au](http://www.cmyi.net.au)

### Youth participation

CMYI's youth participation programs provide leadership skills training and mentoring support for young people previously left out of mainstream programs. Our program is designed to equip participants with leadership skills that are transferable to their lives and their communities. The overall outcome is to increase their confidence and self-esteem and to support young people to become active citizens within the broader community.

*"I picked up lots of skills, like how to give a speech and other things that leaders have to do."*

- Student participant in CMYI leadership program

[www.cmyi.net.au](http://www.cmyi.net.au)

The CMYI website gives you access to the full range of CMYI publications, including research reports, policy papers, translated resources and information sheets, as well as details about CMYI programs and services.

You can also keep up-to-date by subscribing to CMYI e-News through our website.

### Contact CMYI

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# CMYI PUBLICATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

## Education resources

- **Opening the School Gate: Engaging CLD Parents in Schools (2006)**  
Despite the strong desire to build connections between families and schools, schools often find it difficult to engage CLD families. 'Opening the School Gate' provides some practical suggestions and tools to overcome barriers to involvement. Sections include: Planning for greater CLD engagement in your school; Planning a CLD parents' meeting; Running an effective meeting with CLD parents; Supporting CLD families in your school.  
A hard copy of Opening the School Gate is available free to Victorian schools. Other organisations can purchase copies through CMYI for \$20. To order copies, download a Publication Request Form from [www.cmyi.net.au/CMYIPublications](http://www.cmyi.net.au/CMYIPublications)
- **A guide for newly arrived young people: Understanding the Victorian Education and Training System (2nd Edition) (2003)**  
A resource booklet designed for CLD young people and families to help them understand the Victorian education and training system.  
PDFs available in: Amharic; Arabic; Bosnian; Cambodian (Khmer); Chinese; Croatian; Dari; English; Persian (Farsi); Serbian; Somali; Tigrinya; Vietnamese
- **A Three-Way Partnership? Exploring the experiences of CLD families in schools (2006)**  
An issues paper, which accompanies the 'Opening the School Gate' resource kit for teachers, exploring themes and issues around culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) families' expectations and involvement in schools.
- **Pathways and Pitfalls: Refugee young people in and around the education system in Greater Dandenong (2004)**  
Research exploring the transition pathways of newly arrived young refugees from English Language Schools/Centres into mainstream education, training and employment in Greater Dandenong. The report includes best practices in the delivery of ESL programs for new arrivals, gaps and barriers in programs, and recommendations.
- **Educational Support Issues for Refugee & Newly Arrived Young People (2003)**  
Issues paper on the educational support needs of refugee and newly arrived young people.
- **Late Arrivals: The needs of refugee young people who resettle in later adolescence (2006)**  
This paper explores the significance of age as a factor in the successful settlement of refugee young people who arrive in Australia. CMYI has found that many young people who arrive in late adolescence (15-24 years) are faced with an array of additional pressures, demands and stresses. Paper includes policy recommendations relating to services for older adolescents.

## Information Sheets

- **Information Sheet No. 12: Community organisations to contact for support and referral (2005)**  
Listing of community organisations in Victoria that can provide information, useful support or referral points for youth workers, students, teachers and others supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people.

- **Information Sheet No. 11: Refugee and CLD Young People: Definitions (2005)**  
A glossary of definitions for terms relating to culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people. This information sheet does not seek to be prescriptive, but rather provides an overview of concepts and offers some important distinctions between commonly-confused terms.
- **Information Sheet No. 10: Humanitarian Youth Arrivals to Victoria (Update 09/2005)**  
Statistical overview of recent Humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria derived from DIMIA statistics. This information is useful for providing a general overview of the primary source countries, visa types and distribution of young people from refugee backgrounds currently residing in Victoria.

## Directories

- **Listing of CLD Youth Workers in Victoria (Updated 10/05)**  
CMYI has developed a comprehensive list of CLD Youth Workers in Victoria. Categories include agencies funded by Office for Youth, Community Support Fund, DIMA and other funding sources.
- **CLD Parenting Resources (2004)**  
Directory of CLD Parenting Resources, including programs and publications.

## Translated information

- **Parent Consent Forms**  
Generic consent form can be adapted for workers seeking to get parental permission for young people to be involved in activities.  
PDFs available in: Amharic; Arabic; Assyrian; Bosnian; Cambodian (Khmer); Chinese; Dari; English; Pashtu; Samoan; Serbian; Somali; Tigrinya; Turkish; Vietnamese
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## CMYI e-News

Want to stay in touch and find out about new resources, events and professional development relating to culturally and linguistically diverse young people? Subscribe to CMYI's bi-monthly newsletter - CMYI e-News - at [www.cmyi.net.au](http://www.cmyi.net.au)

All CMYI publications listed (and more!) are available to download from  
[www.cmyi.net.au/CMYIPublications](http://www.cmyi.net.au/CMYIPublications)  
or contact the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues for copies  
[info@cmyi.net.au](mailto:info@cmyi.net.au) or (03) 9340 3700