
How to use the video resource:

“Top tips to engage migrant and refugee communities in primary prevention initiatives”

1. The purpose of this video

This video presents four evidence-based recommendations to implement in the design, development, and delivery of **prevention and early intervention activities with multicultural communities**, to better support migrant and refugee women at risk of experiencing sexual assault.



It summarises some of the key recommendations outlined in MCWH's Best Practice Guide "Making the Links: A Guide to Engaging with Migrant and Refugee Communities in Primary Prevention and Early Intervention".

2. Who is this video for?

This video is intended for practitioners who work with migrant and refugee communities in sexual assault and sexual violence primary prevention and early intervention services. This may include:

- Sexual assault services
- Multicultural organisations

- Community health services
- Women's health centres
- LGBTQI+ organisations
- State and local government
- Faith-based places, networks and associations
- Regional, national and international not-for-profits working in women's rights, health and safety
- Housing and homelessness services
- Mental health support services
- Migration and settlement services

3. When and where can you use this video?

This resource can be used as an educational tool to support learners in primary prevention. It can be used:

- At training sessions or other professional development opportunities for practitioners working with migrant and refugee communities.
- In panels and events about primary prevention initiatives.
- By organisations who want to reflect on their project's engagement with multicultural communities
- In meetings between practitioners and multicultural community leaders as a springboard for discussing better ways to engage and/or improve the relationship between practitioners and the community.

4. Further reading

To access additional information on this topic, a range of resources can be found on the following links:

1. [Challenging myths about culture and violence in migrant and refugee communities - MCWH](#)
2. [Improving Our Approach To Community-led Prevention - MCWH & Safe and Equal](#)

3. Engaging Men From Multicultural And Faith-based Communities In Primary Prevention - MCWH & Safe and Equal

4. Prevention of Violence Against Women - MCWH One-page advocacy brief

5. Key terms and definitions

Migrant and refugee

We use this term to describe people living in Australia who were born overseas or whose parent(s) or grandparent(s) were born overseas in a predominantly non-English speaking country.

Women

MCWH uses the term 'women' throughout this video. We acknowledge that the social category of 'women' is not inclusive of non-binary and gender-diverse people, who may also experience significant barriers to accessing support for sexual violence. This is a limitation of our research, and it is indicative of the work required to ensure gender transformative approaches to violence prevention.

Primary prevention

In *Change the Story*, primary prevention means stopping violence against women from occurring in the first place by addressing the underlying drivers that support, promote, and/or normalise violence (Our Watch, 2021).

Early intervention

Sometimes called "secondary prevention", it aims to 'change the trajectory for individuals at higher-than-average risk of perpetrating or experiencing violence' (Our Watch 2021, p.58).

Sexual assault

“An act of sexual nature carried out against a person’s will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. It includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Sexual assault occurs when a person is forced, coerced or tricked into sexual acts against their will or without their consent, including when they have withdrawn their consent’ (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022, p.132).

Sexual violence

An umbrella term used to capture sexual activity where consent is not freely given or obtained, is withdrawn or the person is unable to consent due to their age or other factors. Such activity can be sexualised touching, sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, sexual harassment and intimidation and forced or coerced watching or engaging in pornography. Sexual violence can be non-physical and include unwanted sexualised comments, intrusive sexualised questions or harassment of a sexual nature (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022).