

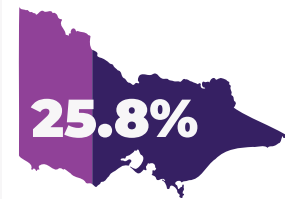


Moving Ahead Together Budget Bid 24/25

Multicultural Centre for Women's Health

Women and girls born overseas in a main non-English-speaking country (MNESEC) make up 25.8% of Victoria's female population. While Victoria continues to lead the nation in measures for gender equality, many policies, services and investments for equity still leave migrant and refugee women behind. **For Victoria to truly achieve gender equality and feel the benefits of gender equal investment, we can't ignore the diversity of our population.**

MCWH is led by, for and with migrant and refugee women. We have the expertise, experience and workforce infrastructure to vastly improve sexual and reproductive health, workplace safety and fairness, mental health and violence prevention for migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people. With dedicated and sustained government investment, we can support the equitable participation of Victoria's migrant and refugee women in our workforce, economy and civic life, **to ensure that all Victorians can move ahead together.**



25.8%
of Victoria's female population were born in a main non-English speaking country.

Our bilingual video health resources were viewed

179,000
times in 2023

MCWH provided health education sessions to
7978
migrant and refugee women in 2023



MCWH receives just 81c per migrant or refugee women in Victoria

5 key areas for investment

1. We need to keep up with population growth, diversity and complexity
2. Migrant women and gender diverse people need equitable access to sexual and reproductive health
3. We need increased mental health support and prevention programs tailored for migrant women and gender diverse people
4. Gender equality, primary prevention and early intervention gendered violence programs should be tailored for multicultural communities
5. We need to ensure workplace safety, equity and fairness for migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people

What investment is needed in this 24/25 budget?

1. Ensure MCWH has sufficient core funding to provide a **comprehensive state-wide service** across Victoria through **in-language health education, information and referral, capacity building, research and advocacy**. This includes an investment into intersectional policy analysis with a gendered lens that can provide input into Victorian government policy at all levels, ensuring the health and rights of migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people are protected and improved. **Sufficient core funding includes:**
 - a. A funding uplift to bring MCWH into line with funding needed to deliver services on a statewide level.
 - b. Continuation of the additional annual funding provided in the 2022-23 Budget to Victorian women's health services from 2024-25 onwards.
2. As a part of the **establishment of the women's health clinics**, provide funding to **MCWH to play a statewide role, providing specialist secondary consultation, capacity building, policy advice, best practice guidelines**, and access to standardised multilingual health and service referral information to the Victorian Department of Health and to the clinics, to ensure cultural safety and accessibility, and to **prevent duplication of effort and resources** at the clinic level.
3. Support a **permanent, state-wide, multilingual, health education infrastructure** to deliver appropriate, **in-language preventative health** and wellbeing education and support programs across Victoria, **including in rural and regional areas**.
4. Provide funding to **MCWH to partner with antenatal care providers**, to increase access to antenatal care in the first trimester for migrant women and gender diverse people, **improve perinatal health and reduce stillbirth and neonatal death**.
5. Establish a **statewide, specialist, gendered, multicultural mental health program** that provides:
 - a. **In-language mental health education** to migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people focusing on health promotion and prevention.
 - b. Access to multilingual mental health information resources in **a range of formats and access points**.
 - c. **Transparent referral pathways** for migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people to Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals and other mental health services.
 - d. **Secondary consultation**, capacity building and training to mental health services.
 - e. **Specialist intersectional policy and practice advice** to the current mental health reform, including developing best practice guidelines for **accessible, ethical, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed service delivery**.
6. Sustainably fund **MCWH's PACE Leadership Program** to further build the leadership, workforce participation, civic and political inclusion, and mental wellbeing of migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people, and **to build their rights, inclusion and sense of belonging**.
7. **Build the mental health evidence-base and program evaluation capacity** by commissioning new research on migrant and refugee women and gender diverse peoples' mental health, delivered through equitable research partnerships with migrant women's organisations, **ensuring research is led by migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people**.
8. Provide ongoing funding to MCWH to **continue its specialist statewide role building capacity** across Victoria to adopt a **consistent intersectional approach to prevent family violence** in multicultural communities.
9. **Support earlier access to family violence support services** for migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people by funding MCWH to **continue to deliver comprehensive, in-language family violence education** to migrant women across Victoria.
10. Provide **on-going investment to prevent gender and race discrimination in workplaces** and promote equity within the Victorian labour force.
11. Provide funding to MCWH to **engage migrant and refugee women and gender diverse workers in the manufacturing and childcare sectors** to build their capacity to promote gender equity and prevent sexual harassment in their industries.

The Investment 2024/2025

Population growth health infrastructure	\$1,319,620
Equitable access to reproductive and sexual health	\$1,303,034
Tailored mental health support and prevention	\$1,593,263
Gender equality, prevention and early response to violence	\$956,956
Workplace safety, equity and fairness	\$744,585
TOTAL INVESTMENT 24/25	\$5,917,458

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