

# **Co-Designed, Culturally Tailored Cervical Screening Education with Migrant And Refugee Women In Australia: A Feasibility Study.**

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## **Background:**

Participation of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women from migrant and refugee backgrounds in cervical screening is crucial to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem within the next 20 years. However, CALD women report low participation in cervical screening.

## **Methods:**

CALD community health workers (CHWs) took part in a two-day training program then co-designed, culturally tailored and co-facilitated cervical screening health promotion forums within their communities. Forums were delivered to a total of seven groups, involving 12 sessions and 71 CALD women. The forums were evaluated for feasibility, acceptability, implementation and effectiveness using a survey, interviews and observations. Data were collected from CALD women, facilitators and researchers.

## **Results:**

The co-design and co-delivery of cervical screening health promotion forums was time and resource intensive however allowed for deep cultural tailoring. This resulted in engagement and active participation of 'hard to reach' CALD women, improved health literacy and intention to screen. Flexibility in the intervention implementation was crucial to ensure forums were responsive to each community's interests and needs. This included responding to community availability, preferences for community led facilitation or facilitation led by a health professional, and co-design of content that addressed beliefs, norms and barriers to cervical screening specific to each community. Online delivery of the forums in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was acceptable to most groups.

## **Conclusion:**

Co-designed, culturally tailored cervical screening health promotion forums are feasible and acceptable to CALD women, in both face-to-face and online formats. Adjustments to the intervention protocol are recommended to improve future implementation including increasing the duration of training for CHWs to include practice facilitation and online facilitation skills; offering dedicated roles for CHWs to enable sustained delivery of the forums, and; providing cervical screening education alongside active support for CALD women to engage in screening.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

None.

## **Acknowledgement of Funding:**

This study was funded by the Ainsworth Medical Research Innovation Fund, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University in partnership with Family Planning NSW and Community Migrant Resource Centre.