

Delivering multicultural equity in cancer control



The Cancer Institute NSW has developed a Multicultural Equity Framework to guide and support the Institute to identify and address the needs of our multicultural communities and improve cancer outcomes.

The Cancer Institute NSW works to lessen the impact of cancer across the state by ensuring everyone receives the same access to cancer prevention, screening, treatment and services, no matter where they live and regardless of their cultural, religious or socioeconomic background.

Research indicates that culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities (or multicultural communities) have higher cancer incidence rates and have poorer cancer outcomes. In addition, certain groups within these communities are at risk of specific cancers. These factors create a gap in healthy living standards between different groups within our society. As such, multicultural groups are highlighted as a priority within the *NSW Cancer Plan*, with specific actions outlined to ensure the cancer sector is working towards greater equity.

In order to improve cancer outcomes within multicultural communities, it's important to consider and understand their country of birth, language spoken at home, beliefs and the health literacy level.

Did you know?

- 27.6% of the NSW population were born overseas and 25.3% speak a language other than English at home.
- The three most common languages spoken at home are Mandarin, Arabic and Cantonese.
- People of Islamic faith make up 5.3% of the Greater Sydney population.

Source: 2016 Census

Our Multicultural Equity Framework

The framework aims to:

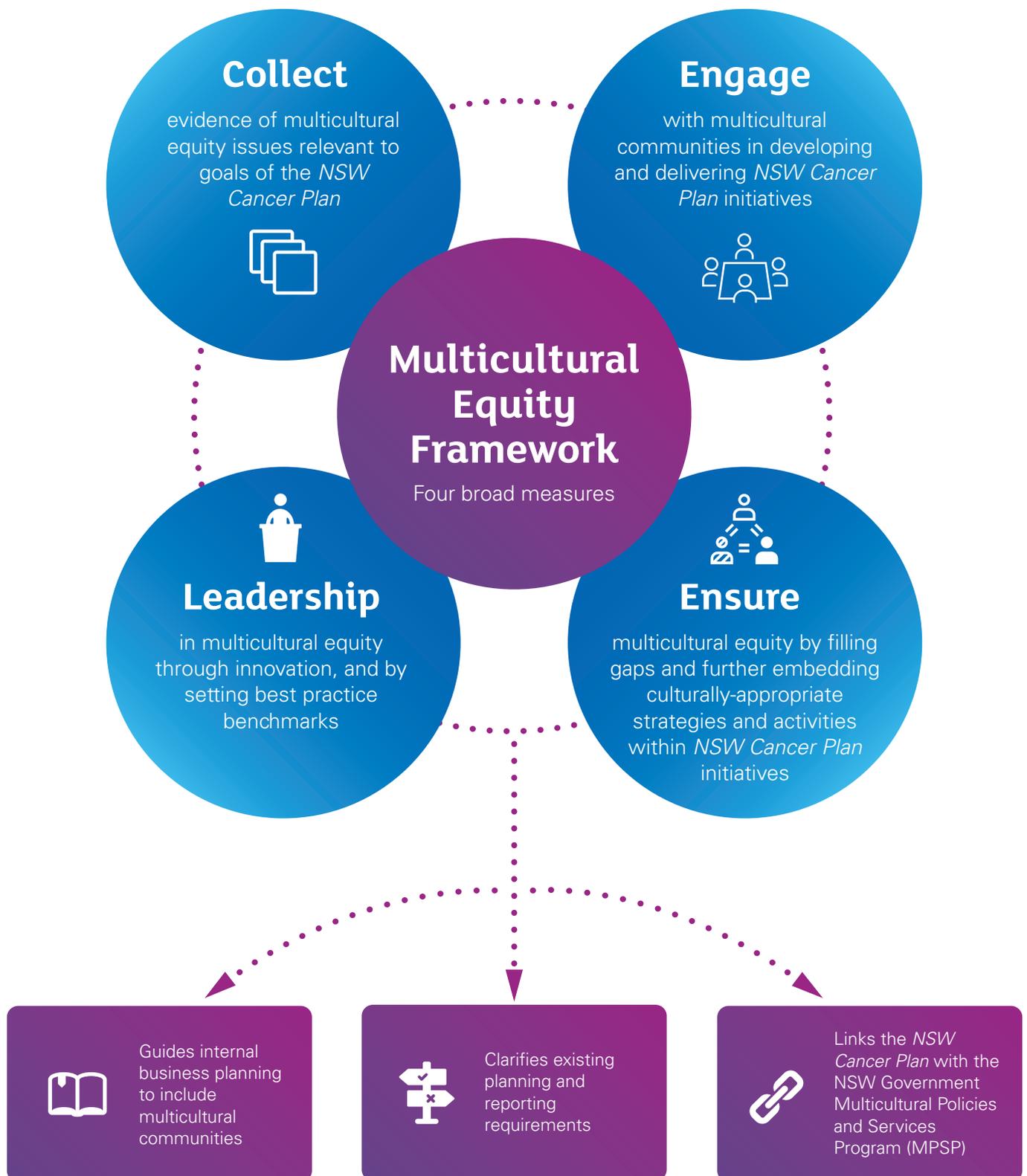
- ensure the delivery of *NSW Cancer Plan* initiatives to multicultural communities
- guide the Institute in identifying appropriate equity measures in its internal business plans
- help meet the planning and reporting requirements of the NSW Government Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP), which requires all government agencies to plan and report on multicultural initiatives that are built on guiding principles of access and equity.

The Institute's *Multicultural Equity Framework* includes four broad measures which align with the *NSW Cancer Plan* objectives:

1. **Collect evidence of multicultural equity** issues relevant to the goals of the NSW Cancer Plan.
2. Engage with multicultural communities in developing and delivering NSW Cancer Plan initiatives.
3. Ensure multicultural equity by filling gaps and further embedding culturally-appropriate strategies and activities within NSW Cancer Plan initiatives.
4. Take **leadership in multicultural equity** through innovation, and by setting best practice benchmarks.

Refer to the diagram over the page for more information.

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Working together to lessen the impact of cancer

Cancer Institute NSW PO Box 825, Alexandria, NSW 1435
t +61 (0)2 8374 5600 f +61 (0)2 8374 3600 e information@cancerinstitute.org.au
cancerinstitute.org.au

