BREAST SCREEN AWARENESS IN MIGRANT COMMUNITIES.

Funded by the Cancer Institute NSW
Prevalence

- 30% of non-English speakers are aged 50+ years.
- 27% of all cancers and 15% of cancer-related deaths.
- Information on breast cancer does not reach the targeted group.
- Barrier: cultural sensitivity
CALD women generally, and older women who are at higher risk.
- Women age 50-74
- Women from South Asian, Southeast Asian, Arabic and African community
Program goal

- Reduce health disparities among migrant women
- Increase awareness and participation rate through direct engagement with women.
- Education campaigns that focus on providing basic information
- Enhancing community awareness and knowledge about breast and cervical cancer risks and prevention strategies
Strategies

- Collaboration
- Utilising existing community women’s group
- Engaging ethnic media
- Community networking
Findings

- General embarrassment and discomfort.
- Language barrier
- A lack of knowledge regarding screening.
- A lack of knowledge of signs and symptoms
- Peer support
- Bilingual support
Conclusion:

- Cultural barrier identified
- Important factor:
  - Country of birth
  - Level of literacy
  - Exposure to local health system
- Adopting culturally appropriate approach
Thanks