



**‘Cervical Screening Renewal: Capacity building  
of Bilingual Community Educators’**

## Project aim

- Increase cervical screening participation rates for women aged 25 to 74 years from refugee communities in Western Sydney Local Health District and South Western Sydney Local Health District, specifically women from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

## How?

- The delivery of community education sessions by Bilingual Community Educators.
- The development of culturally appropriate community resources and a local media campaign on the changes to the National Cervical Screening Program.

## Who is your target audience?

- Bilingual Community Educators who deliver community education to women from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar.
- Women from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar with a refugee background.

# Why did you come up with this project idea?

## Priority population:

- Western Sydney Local Health District and South Western Sydney Local Health District have the lowest rates of cervical screening participation compared with the rest of NSW (Cancer Institute NSW, 2017).
- Evidence of higher rates of cervical cancer incidence in women in developing and war affected countries (Cancer Institute NSW, 2017).
- In 2016/17 new refugee arrivals predominately from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar settled in western and south western Sydney (Australian Government 2018).
- Women from refugee backgrounds have very little knowledge about cervical cancer or the need for cervical screening (Perz, et al., 2017).

## Peer education:

- Peer led education can be successful in increasing participation in cancer screening (Jones, Ross, Cloth & Heller, 2015).
- Sustainability through existing Bilingual Community Educator Programs.

# What strategies have you applied to deliver the project?

## Partnerships

- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- NSW Refugee Health Service

## Bilingual Community Educator Consultation

- Working group
- Focus testing

## Community Consultation

- Focus testing

## Project Advisory Committee

## What have you achieved?

- Established Project Advisory Committee
- Established Bilingual Community Educator Working Group
- Bilingual Community Educator program manual developed
- Bilingual Community Educator teaching resource in development
- Bilingual Community Educator training organised
- Community resources in development
- Media campaign in development
- Approval from Family Planning NSW and South Western Sydney Local Health District Ethics Committees

## How will you sustain the project after funding ends?

- Bilingual Community Educator program manual and teaching resource
- Bilingual Community Educator training
- Community resources

# Family Planning NSW

Family Planning NSW is the state's leading provider of reproductive and sexual health services. We have five fixed clinics in NSW and use innovative partnerships to deliver services in other key locations across the state. We provide information and health promotion activities, deliver education on reproductive and sexual health to community members, as well as education and training for doctors, nurses, teachers and other health, education and welfare professionals.

## Partner Organisations:

NSW Refugee Health Service

South western Sydney Local Health District

Western Sydney Local Health District