

Taking the Pulse of South West Sydney CALD communities

Staying at home versus having a home is a false choice that communities must make to follow the stay-at-home order. Without wage subsidies that maintain connection between employees and employers during and post-lockdowns, 23% of responses noted.

'Low income and cannot afford to not go to work' as a significant reason for not being able to remain at home. Another strong reason for movements outside home was poor health.

With limited health infrastructure in the region, inadequate CALD appropriate telehealth and a gaping digital divide, about 25% of responses noted they had no choice but to travel outside of their home for health reasons.

5 service areas



Mental Health & Wellbeing



Families



Employment



Aged Care



Social Cohesion

RECOMMENDATIONS

Employment

Strategy

Balance employment pathways with improved social safety nets delivered through local place-based community organisations.

Practical Initiatives

1. Provision of in-language support to access welfare payments such as COVID-19 disaster payment to maintain costs of living, COVID-19 test/Isolate payments, The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment.
2. Reinstatement of wage subsidies such as Job Keeper and Coronavirus Supplement, rent moratoriums for 6 months, and special assistance for informal care arrangements.
3. Develop and expand CALD specific employment services/job networks linked to place-based community organisations.
4. Fund English language training with built-in work experience/placements for refugees and migrants.
5. Specialised focus on CALD women with limited/no work experience and competing priorities of carework, via intensive employment support (e.g. Microenterprises for women)*.



The full pulse survey report is available on our website:
wsmrc.org.au/covid-19-pulse-report

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