

Introduction

The Diversity in Practice – A resource kit for early childhood services working with children and families from migrant and refugee backgrounds in the Nepean area (DIP Kit) was developed by the Migrant and Refugee Children Support Working Group (MARCS) to assist early childhood service providers to improve access and the provision of culturally inclusive programming for migrant and refugee children and their families.

Inclusion involves taking into account all children's social, cultural and linguistic diversity in curriculum decision-making processes. The intent is to ensure that all children have equitable access to resources and participation, and that educators make curriculum decisions that uphold all children's rights to have their cultures, identities, abilities and strengths acknowledged and valued, and respond to the complexity of children's families' lives.

The DIP Kit is designed to support the development and inclusion of children in their early formative years by assisting early childhood educators to work more closely and effectively with parents and children from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The DIP Kit offers a range of topic specific tip sheets, service and resource information, and practical tips to assist early childhood educators better cater to the special needs of migrant and refugee families.

There are many benefits to providing and promoting culturally inclusive practice in early childhood services and to working in partnership with families from migrant and refugee backgrounds. References to **Belonging, Being & Becoming, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia 2009 (EYLF)** have been used

throughout this resource to link the relevant principles, practice and learning. Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by belonging, being and becoming, designed to provide direction and inspiration for early childhood educators in early childhood settings to facilitate children's learning from birth to five years and through the transition to school.

How to use this resource

This resource kit is not intended as a checklist or protocol but as a guide to raising awareness around diverse cultural practices and special needs or requirements that are most relevant to working with migrant and refugee children and families in an early childhood service setting. Each of the seven tip sheets provide a brief outline of topic specific information to assist early childhood educators to assess and identify how current programs and resources can be adapted and delivered so that they are culturally inclusive and appropriate to the needs specific to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) children and families.

The DIP Kit has been designed purposely in an 'A' frame calendar style spiral bound format so that it can be placed on your desk or in an accessible and visible position for workers to easily access. You can make additional copies of each or all tip sheets by photocopying your hardcopy or alternatively 'pdf' files are available to download on www.fwtdp.org.au.

We hope that this resource will assist you in developing your service to meet all children's needs.