

Supporting women and families from migrant and refugee communities at the Royal Hospital for Women

The Cross-Cultural Worker in Maternity and Child & Family Health Services

The Cross-Cultural Worker in Maternity and Child & Family Health Services at RHW is an initiative unique to Southeastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD). The CCW Service supports women and families from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and international students, to navigate maternity, child and family health (CAFH), and community-based services, enabling early and ongoing engagement across the first 2000 days of life: the continuum of pregnancy up to a child being five years old.

The Service grew out of increasing numbers of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds accessing maternity care late in pregnancy, higher rates of mental health issues, caesarean section, low birthweight, and admission to newborn care. Women from migrant and refugee backgrounds are at increased risk of suboptimal perinatal outcomes and experience inequities in access. SESLHD responded with the implementation of the CCW Service in late 2017 in response to community consultations and data review.

The Cross-cultural worker has lived experience of the migration and settlement journey.

The key roles of the Cross-Cultural Worker include:

- Support during pregnancy and after birth, until a child is 5 years of age
- Support to access and navigate services during pregnancy and into parenting
- Link to community supports and networks
- Provide culturally appropriate pregnancy, birth and parenting information and education
- Support transition from pregnancy and birth to child and family health services
- Collaborate with local communities and community-based services

Contact

Cross Cultural Worker at RHW & Eastern suburbs

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Link to webpage: <https://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/directory/child-youth-family-services/multicultural-services>