

Diverse Needs: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Australians

Australia's population is increasingly diverse. 8.6 million were born overseas with most coming from England, India, China and New Zealand, with recent arrivals from India, China, Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam. Over 5.8 million Australians speak a language other than English, including Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Punjabi. Earlier migrants were from Europe and spoke Spanish, Italian, German, French and Polish.

Experience of disadvantage

Many face challenges learning English, gaining employment and adjusting to the Australian culture. Most experienced prejudice, taking low-paid jobs to restart their lives. Language barriers, different cultural beliefs and practices make using services harder.

The impact on end-of-life care

People distrust services if their cultural traditions aren't respected, and prefer family care. Limited end-of-life care creates distress for older people and families. Services must respect cultural practices and meet language needs.

Visit the Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing for Partners in
Culturally Appropriate Care.

Find out more through
palliAged's Culturally
Safe Care.



Complex overlaps

Despite being welcomed, people from diverse backgrounds may feel unfamiliar with palliative and end-of-life care. They can face language barriers, low income, complex health needs, and limited service access.

