



A cultural lens approach to Ageing

Speaker: **Rosa Colanero**

Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural Aged Care Inc.





A cultural lens approach to Ageing

Exploring aspects of
who, what, why and how
to begin a conversation about Ageing
in a culturally diverse community.





A cultural lens approach to Ageing

- **Why** aren't older persons all the same?
- Why **aren't** older persons all the same?
- Why aren't **older persons** all the same?
- Why aren't older persons **all the same**?
- **Why,** aren't older persons all the same?





Ageing



- Why are there different approaches to ageing?





Ageing

- What was considered ageing
 - 10,000 years ago?
 - 1,000 years ago?
 - 100 years ago?
 - 10 years ago?





Ageing



- Old age is fifteen years more than you are now.





Ageing



- Why do some cultural groups have elders, others not?





Ageing



- community enhancement
- wisdom
- respect
- admiration
- community burden
- frailty
- cognitive impairment
- increased budget costs





A cultural lens approach to Ageing

- What is the view or lens of the CALD older person?
- Do we want to know?



12 Largest birthplace groups

South Australia, ABS 2011 Census: Birthplace, Number

Italy	20,711	Philippines	8,858
India	18,742	Netherlands	7,281
China	15,933	Malaysia	6,950
Viet Nam	12,026	South Africa	6,208
Germany	11,408	Poland	5,548
Greece	9,757	Korea	3,397



Birthplace - % aged 65 & over

South Australia, ABS 2011 Census: Birthplace, % aged 65 & over

Latvia	82	Italy	55
Lithuania	81	Greece	51
Estonia	80	Austria	42
Ukraine	67	Germany	39
Slovenia	64	Myanmar	37
Hungary	58	Poland	37



Top source countries for new arrivals

South Australia, ABS 2011 Census: Birthplace, Number

Born elsewhere	6,748	Malaysia	903
United Kingdom	5,899	Philippines	903
China	2,629	Korea	647
India	2,011	Vietnam	611
South Africa	1,277	United States of America	556
New Zealand	1,264	Hong Kong	353



Potentially big communities of the future

South Australia, ABS 2011 Census: Birthplace, Number 2006-2011

India	6,830	18,742
China	8,082	15,933
Philippines	5,440	8,858
South Africa	4,489	6,208
Malaysia	5,342	6,950
New Zealand	11,366	12,850





The cultural lens will

- Mirror diversity
- Recognise culture as an essential component of our perceptions; values, attitudes...
- Reflect the diversity of concepts and meanings of ageing



What do we know about CaLD?

- Diversity will continue and increase
- Over 20% of Australians born overseas/come from a CaLD background
- Percentage of the CaLD population over 65 living in Australia is increasing at a more rapid rate than the mainstream population



What do we know about CaLD?

- CaLD older people, particularly women, become less proficient in speaking English
- CaLD older people are not accessing some services
- Older people revert to primary languages and cultures





The cultural lens will

- Mirror diversity
- Recognise culture as an essential component of our perceptions; values, attitudes...
- Reflect the diversity of concepts and meanings of ageing





Conclusion

- Increased understandings...
 - why aren't older persons all the same?
 - why Ageing with a cultural lens?
 - why are there different approaches to ageing?
 - how will adopting a cultural lens assist anyone?
 - how to identify diverse interpretations of ageing?
 - how to engage with older persons from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds?





For more information

Contact MAC

Information, resources and training opportunities

Phone: 08 8241 9900

Fax: 08 8352 1266

Email: macsa@mac.org.au

94 Henley Beach Road, Mile End, SA

