**Notes from MYAN WA World Café Meeting**

**November 2015**

**Mental Health**

**Main issues and problems:**

* Stigma
* Perception
* Lack of education
* Eligibility
* Financial difficulty
* Lack of support
* Cultural background
* Religion
* Fear of acknowledgement
* Lack of communication

**Solutions:**

* Educating
* Engaging young people and giving them a good support system
* Proper education and training of CALD related workers.
* Educating newly arrives of their rights to services and home visits
* Introducing systems that break through cultural or religious beliefs
* Providing a more CALD friendly services
* Employing more multicultural workers or service providers
* Mentoring and introducing community programs with CALD leaders
* Easier access such as online services

**Youth Radicalisation**

**Why topical?**

* Media representation
* Fear
* Gap between youth isolation and their sense of belonging
* Culture
* “Us Vs. Them”/ Identity
* Extremism/ Rebellion
* Appeal of joining a revolution
* Lack of culture, belonging
* Any particular Groups which are susceptible to radicalization:
* Isolation rather than some particular culture
* Destabilization leads to a chance for indoctrination
* Public rarely asks why radicalization exists =, and the broader context of the underlying ideology
* Growth od media to stoke the fire- social media is unfiltered and any source of opinion is not critically analysed
* Young people are disconnected and are finding acceptance and belonging in these types of groups
* Availability of resources for minority communities is lacking- stokes divisiveness
* Compare ISIS and Reclaim Australia- the latter is not criticized in the same way, or on the same scale.
* Disproportionate coverage of ISIS
* Failure to consider the underlying basis of extremist

**Solutions:**

* Engagement in sport, social groups and community
* Bring back to Australia- Ambassadors
* More positive stories of multicultural young people in media and local papers
* More socialization and opportunity to connect
* More cultural diversity and cultural understanding
* Ensure Community leaders have the right knowledge to teach young people
* Strong suggestion to look at the Kittanning Community for ideas
* Political Agenda influence public opinion in regards to radicalization (Reclaim Australia vs ISIS)

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

**Issues:**

* Lack of understanding of refugees
* About experience, colonial legacy
* About diversity
* De humanizing discourse
* Negative, not compassionate
* Border, Security Focus
* Media
* Plays the biggest role
* Not enough positive stories displayed
* Mostly feeds ignorance about refugee statues

**Solutions:**

* Learn how to tap into our own family narrative
* Have more origin/ history conversations
* Creating more awareness
* Changing perceptions
* Changing Stigma
* Educating the public

**Citizenship and Sense of Belonging**

**Issues:**

* Clashes between own culture and Australian Culture
* Could be an overwhelming amount of information
* Time, Financial ability, language and miscommunication are some of the main problems new arriving families face
* Not enough support to guide them
* Young people don’t usually go pass their parents for advice
* Not enough engagement with the general demographic to feel Australian

**Solutions:**

* Smaller gaps between the concept of citizenship and identity- i.e. Legal rights and personal sense of belonging
* More socialization/ translation to belonging
* More community events that bring people together
* Nationally celebrating holidays of other cultures (e.g. Not just celebrating Christmas)
* More twilight market events – opportunities to learn about other cultures
* Having more art programs
* Bridging visas should be eligible for more services

**Education and employment**

* The barrier between educational system recognising youth with learning disabilities (dyslexia, mental health issues) and different cultural aspects
* Isolation between school teachers/curriculum and parents i.e. parents not being aware of HOW the educational system works (WACE/TAFE/UNI) -Have interpreters for parents see English language as a barrier
* Educating regarding cultural awareness needs to be done with both students and their parents
* Providing traineeship to those in the workforce
* Early cognitive stage in children – starting cultural awareness in children early on (day-care, pre-primary and primary)
* Teaching students from multicultural backgrounds that it is okay to me proud of your culture, food, art, music, religion and not ashamed
* Having multicultural studies or religious studies as an elective in school (or make it compulsory) -show children that all religions regardless of race and colour basically follow the same principles. Show children the similarities rather than the differences
* Up skilling teachers learning at universities and at workforce. For example, training days or workshops which facilitate cultural diversity and then follow up with monthly or half-yearly surveys to keep track of progress
* Have cultural support/social workers at schools working alongside counsellors and career advisors
* Having a focus on the culture shift at schools who are very academic focused rather than diversity (well-known schools at higher socio-economic status and private Christian schools)
* We are aware that the educational system is exceeding capacity and introducing compulsory cultural studies will be tough to accommodate but we can work around adjusting the curriculum so we can fit our aim
* Getting the bigger people involved into our vision – politicians, education minister