



The Mechanics of Supporting Carers to Meet Cultural Needs

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www.fcav.org.au



Foster Care Association of Victoria

- 1850 Victorian Foster Carers
- Phone Support
- Advocacy
- Research
- Information Eg. Training, newsletter, FB, Twitter



Betti Gabriel



Culture



Definition of CALD

- CALD-Culturally And Linguistically Diverse
- those individuals who were either born overseas, or whose parents and/or grandparents were born overseas, and speak a language other than English



Project Goals

- **Identify the proportion of carers caring for CALD children**
- **Identify number using our support service.**
- **Develop resources to help carers with cultural information**
- **Increase cultural competence in the community**

Identify the proportion of carers caring for CALD children and young people

- Consult with Foster Care agencies about their CALD data
- Mini carer survey:
 - 1. Have you fostered a child or young person in the last 6 months?*
 - 2. To the best of your knowledge have you cared for a child or young person from a different cultural background, in the last 6 months?*
- 90 respondents; 30 caring for CALD children

Identify the proportion of callers caring for CALD children to our Support Service

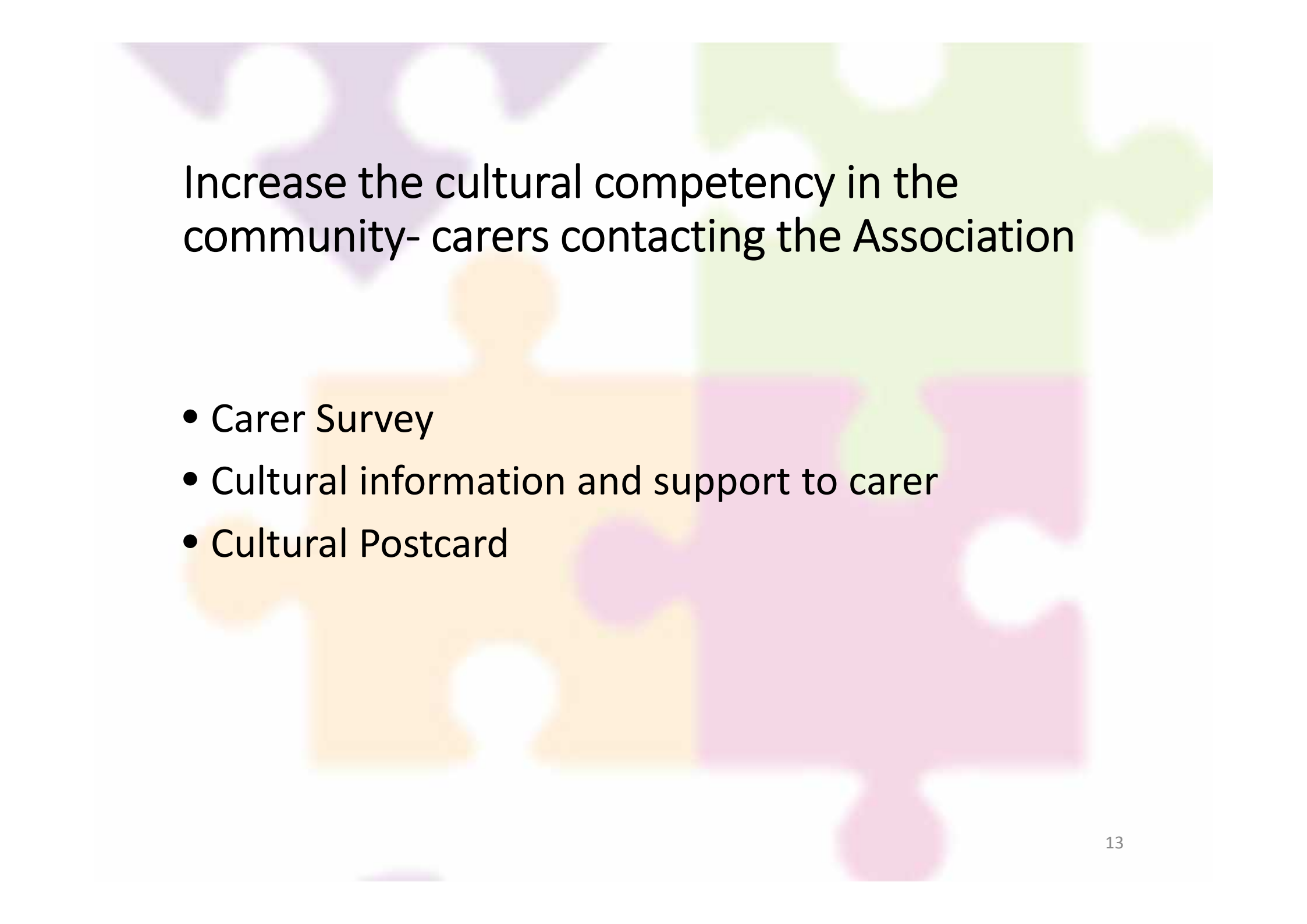
- Modifications to Database to capture:
 - if a carer was caring for a CALD child,
 - the number of carers asking us for CALD advice

Develop Cultural Resources

- Consulted with organisations specialising in culture
- New information sheets- Cultural Awareness
 - Life Story Work
- Ongoing research of cultural holidays
- Information sharing about culture through our newsletter to over 4,000 members
- Updating our website to include cultural resources.

Develop Cultural Resources


- Surveyed Foster Care Agencies:
 - What cultural competence training do your staff have access to?
 - Is cultural competence training available to carers through your agency?
- 4 out of 6 agencies responded:
 - No consistent cultural awareness training, although more emphasis on Aboriginal cultural competency



Increase the cultural competency in the community- carers contacting the Association

- Carer Survey
- Cultural information and support to carer
- Cultural Postcard

Cultural Postcard








fcav Celebrating **Cultural Diversity** in Foster Care In Victoria

Foster Care Association of Victoria

Caring for a child from a culture, language or religious background different to your own?... Get along to an event or access the resources available online for fun ways to support culture and cultural awareness for the whole family.

For information about the Foster Care Association of Victoria please visit our website at: www.fcav.org.au or call 9436 4292

 <https://www.facebook.com/fcav.vic>
 https://twitter.com/fcav_vic

Celebrating Cultural Diversity In Foster Care

Are you caring for a child from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background or interested in multicultural events you can attend with your child/ren? Check out these websites for upcoming events, festivals and information:

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Foster Care Association of Victoria

Victorian Multicultural Commission is the voice of Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and is the main link between them and the government.
<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/>

- VICSEG (Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups) is a not for profit, community organisation providing support and training to newly arrived and recently settled migrant communities throughout the northern and western Melbourne regions.
<http://www.vicsegenfutures.org.au/>
- CWMe (Care With Me) provides support and education to families engaging in out of home care, particularly carers and children from CALD backgrounds.
<http://www.cwme.org.au/>
- CMY (Centre for Multicultural Youth) works to support young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to foster a sense of belonging and enable them to participate fully in their community.
<http://www.cmyaui.au/about-us>

FCAV's Carer Information and Support Service offers specific cultural support, information and resources. Go to: www.fcav.org.au/news/calendar-of-cultural-religious-dates or www.fcav.org.au/images/carer-resources/information-sheets/Cultural_Life_Story_Work.pdf. Call 9436 4292 or email: b.go@fcav.org.au. For more information in your local area, contact your local council/china.




We respectfully acknowledge that we work on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation and pay respect to the Woorinji people, past and present, who are the first (and oldest) owners of this land.

Increase the cultural competence of FCAV staff and board

- Cultural Training-External
- Cultural information sheets revised
- Survey- Baseline August 2015
 - Follow-Up May 2016
- New CALD information highlighted at team and staff meetings
- Cultural Training for FCAV staff and board by Victorian Multicultural Commission

Survey Results



Q2. On a scale of 1-5 how would you rate your current knowledge of different cultures

Q3. How confident are you in supporting carers caring for CALD children?

Q4. How culturally aware would you rate FCAV?

Findings

- Data on CALD children in care is currently scarce/non-existent.
- Carers and agency staff would like to have this information.
- Carers aware of the importance of a CALD child's culture
- Carers are willing, resourceful, and proactive in accessing information

Carer Survey Results

On a scale of 1-5 how would you rate your current knowledge of different cultures

Rating	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High	Total
No. of Carers	4	10	44	33	10	101
% of Carers	3.96%	9.90%	43.56%	32.67%	9.9%	

How confident are you in supporting children from diverse cultural backgrounds?

Rating	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High	Total
No. of Carers	3	5	31	41	20	100
% of Carers	3%	5%	31%	41%	20%	

"Because I believe in its importance, I will do whatever is necessary to connect a child to their culture"

"Experience-what I don't know I will ask about"

"I have some knowledge and know where to seek more"

What support would you like in relation to understanding diverse cultures better?

Answer Choices	No. of Carers	% of carers
Specific CALD training	52	54.17%
Information from CSO	37	38.54%
Telephone Support when required	57	59.38%
Information Sheets	61	63.54%

"I would like their cultural community to visit our house"

"Information sheets should come with the child - even for respite / emergency care."

Where would you seek support for cultural issues?

Answer Choices	No. of carers	% of carers
Your community service agency	71	73.96%
FCAV	37	38.54%
Multicultural agency eg. MRC, VICSEG	45	46.88%
CWiMe	3	3.13%
Don't know	13	13.54%

How culturally aware would you rate FCAV?

Rating	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High	Total	Average
No. of carers	3	7	36	25	21	92	3.59
% of Carers	3.26%	7.61%	39.13%	27.17%	22.83%		

Where to from here?

- Continue raising awareness
- Ongoing collaboration with sector colleagues
- Continue developing useful resources
- **Bottom line: culture to be front-of-mind for carers and agencies, so our children have the best possible outcomes, and have a sense of belonging.**

Case Study



Final Words

- Carers need more information so that they feel more prepared to meet the cultural requirements of the child
- It's very simple really; to be culturally competent there are 2 tasks:
- Don't make assumptions
- Ask questions

Questions



Resources

- Kaur, J. (2014) Culturally Sensitive Practice in Out-of-Home Care: A Good Practice Guide to supporting children and youth from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Queensland, Australia
- Kaur, J (2012) Cultural Diversity and Child Protection *A review of the Australian research on the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and refugee children and families*
- Kaur, J (2012) Scoping Study on Number of CALD & Refugee Children and Young people in OOHC in Victoria

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