



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Arts, Business, Law
and Education

Ageing and Diversity: opportunities and challenges

A masterclass with Cristina Giusti
Director of Policy – Ageing & Disability,
Federation of Ethnic Communities’
Councils of Australia (FECCA)

Date: Thursday 28 June, 9.30am-12.30pm
Venue: Social Science Media Room SSCI 1.49
Cost: free with \$50 registration for Leading
Innovation Through Diversity Forum
RSVP: alumni.uwa.edu.au/innovation-diversity

Reflecting national trends, Western Australia’s demographic and cultural landscape is changing considerably over time with migration from traditional European source countries slowing down or declining while migration from Asian, including Middle Eastern and African countries, increasing. There has been a more rapid increase in the number of older people (aged 65 years and over) from diverse backgrounds compared with other age groups in WA, due mainly to the ageing of the post-Second World War migrant communities.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data from the 2016 Census reveals that older Western Australians (aged 65 years and over) from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds made up almost one-fifth (18.3 per cent) of the State’s total population. Their numbers increased at the higher rate of 25.9 per cent (from 50,179 to 63,154) at 4.7 per cent annually, compared with the same age group migrating from the main English speaking countries of 20.9 per cent at 3.8 per cent annually and of the Australia-born cohort of 22.4 per cent at 4.1 per cent annually.

These demographic changes are occurring in the context of significant changes to service delivery, with the current move to consumer directed care, the establishment of a national aged care system and the recent launch of the new Diversity Framework.

Notwithstanding these changes, WA has emerged as a national leader in World Health Organization age-friendly planning at the local government level. Despite the success of the WA age-friendly approach, a recent review of age-friendly funding found that 42 per cent of evaluation survey respondents identified Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) seniors as a gap in their age-friendly consultation. 61 per cent identified Indigenous seniors as a gap.

This masterclass will facilitate a discussion and analysis of the implications of these trends and findings for national and state policy and program development, including the Diversity Framework and age-friendly communities programming.

A keynote presentation will be delivered by Cristina Giusti drawing on the *FECCA Diversity Framework*

consultations along with a summary overview of a new report, *Older Australians, Age-Friendly Communities and the New Diversity Framework: Policy Implications and Future Directions*, by Dr Rita Afsar (Office of Multicultural Interests) and Professor Loretta Baldassar (Anthropology and Sociology, UWA)

About Cristina Giusti

Cristina Giusti is Director of Policy– Ageing and Disability for the Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia (FECCA). Cristina is a member of the Aged Care Sector Committee’s Diversity Sub-group which developed the National Aged Care Diversity Framework and subsequent action plans. Cristina is an aged care professional who has in the last few years worked in various areas of aged care including policy, advocacy, training and business development, particularly concerning CALD communities.

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