



POD Project Bulletin Issue 3

6 January 2009

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Complements of the season

Happy new year ☺

I hope everyone had a restful break. I wish to thank all our stakeholders, and particularly the expert advisory committee (EAC), for your support in 2008, as I anticipate further collaboration with you on this exciting project in 2009.

The December issue

You may have noticed that there was no issue of this bulletin in December. The reason is that the month of December was devoted to reviewing literature and writing up the discussion paper, which I have already made reference to in previous correspondences. The paper is due for circulation to members of the EAC in the first instance, before it goes out to other stakeholders across Australia. I am grateful for all the resources I received during the development of the paper. I found these very useful.

Identifying stakeholders

In the month of December, I also had the task of identifying key stakeholders from different States to whom the discussion paper could be send ahead of the national forum. This I did in consultation with members of the EAC, who were able to provide names of some of the Migrant Resource Centres in their networks. I have now compiled the list and will soon be inviting them to participate in and contribute to this project.

Project publicity

I appreciate the initiative of EAC members in publicizing the POD project. I received some e-mails at the end of last year from people who had been referred to me by committee members and were requesting more information regarding the project and how they can participate at the national forum.

There have been suggestions to distribute the POD bulletin more widely. I will continue to do this - last year I was able to distribute the bulletin and other project material at different fora during my networking missions, and these did generate a lot of interest.

Reports and proposals

As part of the reporting procedure, a progress report was submitted to the Office for Women on the 16th of December 2008.

In discussing this project with Dr. Adele Murdolo, executive director MCWH, we have made an observation that there are going to be a lot of spin-offs from this project, and that there is need to address some of these emerging issues. For instance there is a need to hold a human rights session with a specific focus on immigrant and refugee women, and to this end, we have applied for funding. Letters of support were received from The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Immigrant Women Support Service. The EAC will be informed on progress regarding this application.

Upcoming events

- *The January teleconference*

As agreed at the last teleconference, the next EAC teleconference will be held on the 27th of January 2009. Details will be e-mailed to individual committee members as before. Minutes of the previous teleconference, a copy of the discussion paper, and an agenda for the teleconference, will be send out to members ahead of the conference. Committee members are requested to suggest further items for discussion as they see fit.

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