

Multicultural Centre for Women's Health

Statewide Role Statement





Our vision

The Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCWH) envisions a future where migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people experience health equity, wellbeing, safety and autonomy, and are free from discrimination in all its forms.

Our work contributes to systems, policies and practices that enable women to fully participate in society and achieve equitable health outcomes.

Our statewide role

As one of Victoria's statewide women's health services, MCWH's primary role is to provide statewide leadership in intersectional, gendered approaches to health promotion and prevention, including bilingual health information and education. This includes:

- Providing strategic direction.
- Developing evidence-informed frameworks and models.
- Promoting best practice.
- Supporting sector capability building.
- Convening statewide communities of practice.
- Supporting knowledge exchange and collaboration.
- Providing expert advice to government and sector stakeholders.

Our role is to support a coordinated, effective and sustainable women's health system by translating evidence into practice, building sector capability, and providing strategic leadership that can be applied across diverse local contexts.

Our core functions

MCWH delivers its statewide role through six interconnected functions:

1. Strategic Leadership

We provide leadership on emerging and priority issues affecting migrant and refugee women's health and wellbeing, contributing to a shared vision and coordinated action across the sector. This includes:

- Providing expertise and knowledge on the application of intersectional approaches
- Identifying strategic priorities and opportunities
- Influencing policy, systems and practice
- Supporting sector alignment with statewide reforms and frameworks

2. Evidence and Knowledge Translation

We synthesise and translate evidence on migrant and refugee women's health to support effective action across the women's health system. This includes:

- Reviewing and disseminating research and evidence
- Identifying emerging trends and practice innovations
- Translating evidence into practical resources and guidance
- Promoting intersectional and gender-transformative approaches

3. Framework and Model Development

We develop evidence-informed frameworks, models and tools that support consistent practice across Victoria. This includes:

- Practice frameworks
- Planning and evaluation tools
- Implementation guides
- Resource development
- System improvement models

4. Sector Capability Building

We strengthen the capacity of organisations and practitioners to implement best-practice approaches. This includes:

- Professional learning opportunities
- Communities of Practice
- Training and workshops
- Peer learning and knowledge exchange
- Capability-building resources

5. Partnership and Collaboration

We foster collaboration across the women's health sector and broader systems to support collective impact. This includes:

- Convening strategic networks and forums
- Facilitating cross-sector collaboration
- Supporting shared learning
- Strengthening connections between statewide and place-based expertise

6. Advocacy and Systems Influence

We contribute to a stronger women's health system through advocacy and strategic influence. This includes:

- Promoting evidence-informed policy and practice
- Identifying systemic barriers and opportunities
- Amplifying sector knowledge and expertise
- Supporting system-wide approaches to improving women's health outcomes

How we work

MCWH recognises that effective and sustainable change relies on strong relationships across the women's health sector.

We are committed to working in partnership with regional women's health services and other stakeholders based on:



MUTUAL RESPECT

SHARED PURPOSE

TRANSPARENCY

EQUITY

COLLECTIVE LEARNING

**RECOGNITION OF DISTINCT
AND COMPLEMENTARY
ROLES**

Our relationship with regional women's health services

MCWH and regional women's health services have different but complementary responsibilities within the women's health system.

MCWH

- Statewide strategic leadership
- Evidence synthesis and translation
- Framework and model development
- Best-practice guidance
- Capability building
- Strategic convening and knowledge exchange

REGIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

- Regional Leadership
- Regional partnerships
- Community engagement
- Place-based implementation
- Adaptation of statewide approaches
- Place-based practice innovation

Together, these roles strengthen both statewide consistency and local responsiveness.



Our approach to engagement

MCWH prioritises activities that deliver statewide value and contribute to sector-wide improvement. Requests for engagement, partnership and support are assessed according to:

- Alignment with MCWH's statewide mandate
- Strategic relevance and impact
- Potential sector-wide benefit
- Opportunities to strengthen capability and best practice
- Availability of resources and capacity
- The unique contribution MCWH can provide

Our involvement may range from leading, partnering and contributing expertise, through to supporting or promoting initiatives where direct participation is not required.



Our commitment

MCWH is committed to creating statewide impact through strategic leadership, evidence-informed practice and meaningful collaboration. By focusing our resources where we can add the greatest statewide value, we support a women's health sector that is connected, informed, equitable and capable of improving outcomes for all women across Victoria.

Contact us

For more information about MCWH's statewide role, engagement approach, or opportunities for collaboration, please contact:

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