

Open your arms (and mind): A practical approach to connecting libraries with their CALD communities

Sadighi, Mojgan, IPU New Zealand, Palmerston North, Manawatu

New Zealand is a multicultural society and home to people of diverse national origin. Based on 2013 Census statistics, more than a quarter of New Zealand's population were born overseas, an increase of more than 2% compare to 2006 data. This increase has led to more diversity in our ethnic, religion and linguistic make-up. Purposefully engaging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities (including new and emerging communities) creates many exciting opportunities and stimulating challenges for libraries in providing facilities, programs and services that can successfully meet the needs of all new Zealanders.

I participated in the 2014 Shared Leadership Program in Victoria (Australia) and was part of a multi-disciplinary project team who developed a "*Toolkit for Collaboration*" to highlight best practice for engaging CALD communities. This method was later used to develop a Persian Mother's club at Whitehorse-Manningham Libraries, a program which is still is running with the help of community members.

This presentation will highlight my journey (and the rest of the project team) and the lessons we learned along the way. The tool kit will also be available for download and use after the presentation.

Audience: Suitable for all but in particular for public libraries or those involved in community events.