



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE IN MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today congratulated NSW Health organisations, NGOs and individuals that have produced and promoted outstanding resources targeting the health needs of culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Mrs Skinner said a record breaking 37 nominations were received for this year's Multicultural Health Communication Awards.

"I congratulate all of the award winners for producing quality resources that make it easier for multicultural communities across the state to access our health services," Mrs Skinner said.

"The resources recognised today give CALD communities the ability to access information, support and advice from our health services.

"When it comes to looking after our own health and the health of loved ones, information is vital and it is wonderful these services are providing this in languages other than English for the benefit of the state's multicultural communities."

Mrs Skinner chose the awards day to also launch the new website of the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS).

"The MHCS website is a touchstone for CALD communities in NSW. It currently receives over five million hits per year, and provides information in over 65 languages," Mrs Skinner said.

"I congratulate MHCS on their efforts to ensure quality multilingual health information is made readily available to health workers, community groups and those who speak a language other than English."

The new website will make it easier to search and access multilingual health information such as medical conditions, treatments and health services.

The new features of the site include:

- A refined search function that allows users to access information with "less clicks", including the ability to search "in language";
- A new media centre that provides multilingual media releases and audio-visual for our important ethnic media partners;
- Latest demographic information on CALD Communities and individual community profiles for the highest CALD population groups from the 2011 Census;
- Information on the home page for campaigns targeting CALD communities, for example the Get Healthy Workshops for GPs and Professionals, and Multilingual Quitlines.

To view the new Multicultural Health Communication Service website visit www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au

****The list of Multicultural Health Communication Awards winners is attached****

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