

Monday 8 July 2013

Award-winning multilingual resources available on the new NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service website

NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) Director Peter Todaro today announced that the winning resources of this year's Multicultural Health Communication Awards will be immediately made available on its new website.

The Awards and the new MHCS website were launched today by the Hon Jillian Skinner MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research at the NSW State Parliament House.

"MHCS has taken the lead in revamping its multilingual website to better meet the information needs of health workers, and agencies working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities," Mr Todaro said.

MHCS is an award-winning state-wide service. It was established as a result of NSW Ministry of Health's plan, *Health Services for a Culturally Diverse Society* (1995) that identified the need for the development of a coordinated state-wide approach to provide information about health issues and health services to people who speak languages other than English.

Mr Todaro said the Awards, presented every 2 years by MHCS since 2003 focuses on the positive contribution of individuals, groups, government and non-government organisations who continue to dedicate their services to fulfil the needs of multicultural communities in NSW to produce excellent multilingual resources. It serves an important role in breaking down the barriers at make accessing services for CALD groups.

"The MHCS website already hosts majority of the current resources submitted in past years. It has always been a central point for the facilitation of information for health workers and organisations when targeting CALD communities, accessing the multilingual materials free of charge. The new winning resources will be invaluable to our users," Mr Todaro added .

This year's Awards received a record number of 37 applications of new health resources in 50 languages.

The new site has key innovative features making it easier for everyone to use from health workers, communities as well as the ethnic media. It also provides updated documents on translation policies and procedures as well as guidelines for the development and production of multilingual health resources.

To view the winning multilingual health resources of the Multicultural Health Communication Awards visit the new MHCS website: www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au.

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