



Migration, Mobilities and  
Belonging Research Network

## WA Migration and Mobilities Update Conference

The University Club of Western  
Australia | 6 September 2017

## Conference Report

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### Update overview

The third annual WA Migration and Mobilities Update conference and associated masterclasses welcomed over 125 members of the community, policy makers, representatives of NGOs, academics and students, who engaged with fifteen speakers from all sectors to discuss issues around migration across the life course.

The Update was opened by Pro Vice-Chancellor / Executive Dean Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education, Professor Matthew Tonts. The WA Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, the Honourable Paul Papalia, welcomed participants, focussing on the importance of migration to Western Australia.

Key themes to emerge from the 2017 Update included:

- Different points in the life course provide different challenges and opportunities for service providers working with migrants and their families.
- Families need migration and service policies that support intergenerational care arrangements. Multigenerational households are on the rise in Australia.
- CALD seniors are increasingly diverse as more recent migrant cohorts age into this demographic and require tailored solutions to ensure equitable access to quality care.
- Young people of migrant backgrounds have a significant contribution to make to Australian society, but may be hampered by structural barriers to full economic, social and political participation.

Participants acknowledged the important role the annual Migration Update Conference plays in bringing government, community, NGOs, and academics together to examine key issues, share knowledge and respond to policy concerns.

# Highlights of the WA MMoB Update



Minister Papalia welcomed delegates and highlighted the importance of the Update as a forum in which diverse stakeholders and associations can have fruitful discussion about citizenship and multicultural issues. Minister Papalia confirmed the importance of active engagement in this field given the significance of ethnic communities to the fabric and well being of Western Australia.

Ms Henny Bizci, Community Engagement Officer at Umbrella Community Care, explained the challenges of helping CALD seniors navigate new and increasingly digitised Consumer Directed Care models and the need to ensure staff are trained and equipped with the tools to support equitable access to choice and quality care.



YACWA Project Support Officer, Ms Sara Shengeb, shared her personal experience of being a young humanitarian entrant, and outlined some initiatives that support young people from migrant backgrounds living in Western Australia. The Catalyst Youth Summit has identified the need to support youth from refugee and migrant backgrounds who may face difficulties accessing appropriate health services and encounter discrimination in the justice system.



Delegates, speakers, keynotes and volunteers shared ideas to address the key issues raised over the course of the day during facilitated group discussions led by co-convenor Dr Donella Caspersz, with an emphasis on finding active solutions to issues. For example, there was a call to introduce and revive programs that promote diversity and multicultural belonging in high schools.



Dr Rita Afsar from the Office of Multicultural Interests highlighted new demographic trends among CALD seniors living in Western Australia and outlined the implications for policy, planning and program development. A key finding is that older CALD women are significantly more likely to require services than the rest of the population because they often present later to services and in poorer health. Contributing factors include limited understanding and lack of appropriate services and low English language proficiency. They are also among the poorest and least well educated in the community.



## MMoB Research Network Masterclasses

The Migration, Mobilities and Belonging Research Cluster at UWA provides training for postgraduate students, early career researchers and community practitioners. This year's MMoB Update keynote speakers Helen Barrie and Deborah Kikkawa both led masterclasses at UWA for researchers and practitioners.

**Dr Helen Barrie**, President of the Australian Association of Gerontologists and Outgoing Director of the Hugo Centre for Migration and Population Research at the University of Adelaide, led 20 researchers and practitioners in a masterclass discussion titled 'Diversity within Diversity: Challenges in providing services to diverse population groups'. Participants were introduced to the new National Diversity Framework to be launched later this year.

**Ms Deborah Kikkawa**, Researcher at the National Centre for Longitudinal Data, Department of Social Services led a Masterclass on the 'Building a New Life in Australia: a Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants' at the Institute for Advanced Studies at UWA. 30 participants learned about how longitudinal projects are set up, managed and analysed at the Centre. The following day 20 participants joined Deborah for a half-day lab workshop where they received in-depth training in using STATA to interrogate data from the BNLA study.

## What the keynotes had to say

Dr Helen Barrie, University Research Fellow, School of Social Sciences, and Former Director of the Hugo Centre of Migration and Population Research, University of Adelaide; and President of the Australian Association of Gerontology.



*Title: Changing Patterns of Migration to and from Australia in Later Life.*

- Mobility both into and out of Australia in later life is increasingly common; older people engage in lifestyle migration, return migration and family reunion migration.
- Current policy focuses on early years and initial settlement, however many aspects of being a migrant shape lives throughout the life course.
- Barriers to immigration in later life, including ineligibility for skilled or work visas, restricted access to services, limited and costly parent migration visas and financial commitments, add significant burden to migrants and their families living in Australia. Parent migrants' contribution to family and community welfare is undervalued.

Ms Deborah Kikkawa, Assistant Director, Research and Methods, National Centre for Longitudinal Data, Department of Social Services.

*Title: Youth in the 'Building a New Life in Australia' Longitudinal Survey: Factors associated with Social and Emotional Behavioural Problems.*

- 'Building a New Life in Australia' (BNLA) is a longitudinal study of humanitarian migrants. Five waves of the survey have been conducted since 2013.
- Results from the child module show that 20.3 per cent of young humanitarian entrants have been exposed to traumatic events, while 17.3 per cent have had their safety or life badly threatened.
- The majority of BNLA children are engaged with school and doing well, however peer problems is an area of concern relating to social and emotional behavioural difficulties.



Prof Andrew Markus, Pratt Foundation Research Chair of Jewish Studies and Head of School of Historical Studies, Monash University. Scanlon Foundation Thought Leadership Keynote Speaker.



*Title: Young Adults in the Scanlon Foundation Surveys.*

- Since 2007, 15,780 respondents have participated in Scanlon Foundation national surveys, including 2,651 18-34 year olds.
- Young people are less politically engaged than older Australians, but they have much more positive feelings towards immigration and cultural diversity.
- However, 30 per cent of young migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds have experienced discrimination within in the last 12 months.
- There is both an attitudinal separation and a spatial separation of white Australia and multicultural Australia.

## PD accreditation for the WA MMoB Update in 2017

The 2017 Update was accredited by the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority for 3 CPD points. The Update provides a unique training opportunity for RMAs in WA, and is particularly useful for senior agents seeking to contextualise their practice within the latest migration debates.

## UWA Migration, Mobilities and Belonging Initiative

The WA Migration and Mobilities Update is hosted by the Migration, Mobilities and Belonging (MMoB) research cluster based in the Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education at UWA. Formed in 2013, MMoB brings together researchers, postgraduates and students from across UWA who undertake research on migration and mobility-related issues.

MMoB's vision is to become a leading intellectual and creative resource on issues of mobilities and migration that serves scholars, students, government and the community. MMoB brings together academics from the disciplines of sociology, business, anthropology, cultural studies, geography, political science, history, Asian Studies, and health. Members use interdisciplinary tools to understand and address the implications of migration and mobility for social, cultural, political and economic life. MMoB scholars work collaboratively with a range of sectors, including government, non-government and community. This year's Migration Update keynote and panel discussions informed two submissions to the Australian Government on Visa Simplification: Transforming Australia's Visa System. Research about women on unresolved visas who experienced intimate partner violence was an outcome of the 2015 Migration Update.



Migration, Mobilities and Belonging, UWA

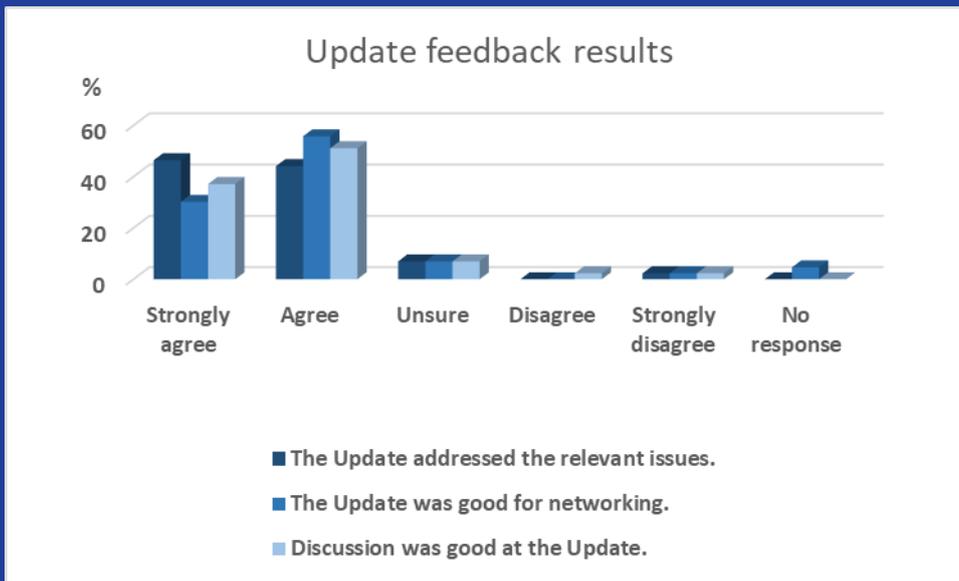


## Future Updates

The UWA MMoB is committed to hosting the annual Update to continue the conversation about policy, research and service delivery, informed by high quality research. Please contact us if you would like to be involved:

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## What YOU said about the Update



Very well organised, informative and valuable.

Very useful to meet up with others in my field.

Fantastic initiative, please continue!

## Supported by



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