Dr Ruth De Souza  
Independent researcher & Stream Leader, Research Policy & Evaluation  
Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health, Victoria  

Ruth has worked as a nurse, therapist, educator and researcher. Ruth has an extensive background in women’s health in New Zealand, having co-established a maternal mental health service and developed a research program with women from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

The Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health (CEH) is a unique agency that provides specialist information, training and support on cultural diversity and wellbeing. We work to ensure that everyone in Australia has access to vital services such as health and education. Where people cannot access services due to cultural, language or educational barriers, we help tailor these services to their needs.

Our clients are health and community service professionals who are committed to providing a high quality of care. We offer practical support and training to help them improve outcomes for culturally diverse clients and communities.

Ms Natalija Nesvadba  
Manager of Multicultural Services  
Mercy Health, Victoria  

Natalija has worked in the multicultural field for the last 17 years across various sectors including health, disability and aged care. Natalija holds a BA in Cross-Cultural Studies and Communications and is a NAATI accredited translator. She is a recipient of Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence in Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria. Being a first generation migrant and a former refugee, Natalija is a passionate advocate for equitable, culturally responsive care.

Mercy Health is a Catholic organisation grounded in a 2,000-year tradition of caring for others. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Health employs over 7,000 people who provide acute and subacute hospital care, aged care, mental health programs, maternity and specialist women's health services, early parenting services, home care services and health worker training and development. Mercy Health employs people from many cultures and backgrounds who, irrespective of their beliefs, share a common bond to care for those in need.
Ms Monique Hameed
National Training Officer
Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health

The Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health (MCWH) is a national advocacy, research and health promotion agency, promoting the health and wellbeing of immigrant and refugee women. Monique has experience working in the LGBTIQ sector, specifically running projects that seek to improve mainstream support of LGBT women from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. She also runs the Beyond Cultural Competency training, a two-day cross-cultural workshop for workers. It is a challenging new course that explores linkages between individual and broader structural issues, between theory, policy and practice and the complexities that are embedded in everyday work with immigrant and refugee communities.

MCWH is a community-based organisation which is led by and for women from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. We are committed to advancing the health and wellbeing of immigrant and refugee women, through our leadership, education and advocacy: our experiences, our stories and our voices. Our Vision is to be the national Voice for Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Wellbeing in Australia, while our Mission is to promote the wellbeing of immigrant and refugee women across Australia, through advocacy, social action, multilingual education, research and capacity building.