

## Teeth Tales *-Applying the Learnings*



L to R : Mai Nguyen, Chi My Nguyen, Coralie Mathews (Peer Education Trainer), Margaret Majok, Peter Makuei, Ayyantu Ali. Absent Marima Gudato

### The Pilot study has begun!

A big welcome to our Peer Educators from the Oromo, Vietnamese and Sudanese communities that have been employed for the Teeth Tales pilot study! These 6 fabulous people have taken part in training to deliver the Peer Education component of the Teeth Tales study in North Richmond. They have been busy assisting with recruitment and promoting the study to their communities.



***We've updated our Website!*** For more information please visit:

[http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au/research/current/intergenerational\\_health/teeth\\_tales](http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au/research/current/intergenerational_health/teeth_tales)



## Dental Day

Over the past two months, the Teeth Tales team has been very busy recruiting families living in North Richmond by attending public immunisation sessions and holding recruitment sessions in community venues. Everyone who attended with children between the age of 1 and 4 years old was offered a free child dental screening and parents/carers were asked to fill out a survey. We have recruited 85 children from many cultural backgrounds.



Coralie Mathews, Marima Gudato

We have had a very successful turnout and the community response has been fantastic!

All families who participated in the screening will be invited to participate in a follow up child dental screening and parent survey in 18 months time. Families from the Oromo, Vietnamese and Sudanese community have been invited to participate in free peer-led parent education sessions about child oral health.

### Big thanks go out to:

- City of Yarra immunisation service
- Boroondara Kindergarten
- Brotherhood of St Lawrence
- Department of Human Services  
Richmond Housing Office

***Thank you for all your support!***

## Peer Education Training Program

The Peer Educators are working with their communities to improve child oral health by:

- Promoting oral health messages in a culturally competent way
- Providing links to dental services and other health and social services in the community.

They have completed 20 hours of training as oral health community educators. The peer educators will now deliver community sessions in culturally appropriate community settings for parents and carers who are participating in the Teeth Tales study.

# Cultural Competency

## Organisational Review (CORe)

The Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health (CEH) have come on board as partners in the Teeth Tales study and contributed their expertise in supporting organisations to promote cultural competency.

The Cultural Competency Organisational Review (CORe) was developed for use in Teeth Tales in partnership by Merri Community Health Services, The McCaughey Centre and CEH. It is based on a combination of existing tip sheets and techniques used by CEH and tools developed specifically for the Teeth Tales study – i.e. the Organisational Cultural Competency Indicator (OCCI).

The CORe has been developed to assess how health and community services can be enhanced so they are more accessible for people from all cultural backgrounds

The CORe was implemented at North Richmond Community Health Service (NRCH) in May this year, starting with a staff online survey and a document audit to review the cultural competence of the organisation. Analysis of this first stage will be used to guide the development of cultural competence action plans which will be implemented over the next 12 months. The CORe will be completed again in 18 months time to assess progress.

**CORe aims to increase organisational capacity and cultural competency in order to increase access to services and appropriate service delivery for people from refugee and migrant communities.**

## Recent Academic Highlights

- Teeth Tales was featured in the Department of Health's 'Evidence-based oral health promotion resource', 2011 (Available at: [http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/evidence\\_res/evidence\\_index.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/evidence_res/evidence_index.htm))
- Christine Armit was invited to present on Teeth Tales at the DHSV Research & Innovations Grant, Melbourne June 2011
- Lisa Gibbs was invited to present on Teeth Tales at the seminar for Australian Population Health Improvement Research Strategy (APHIRST) - Oral Health Dental Health Services Victoria, February, 2011



L to R: Marima, Chi-My, Coralie, Dana, Peter, Anchu, Britt, Elisha & Ayyantu

# What's next?



The pilot is a critical part of the study as it helps us to make sure that our plans and methods work in the community.

The next step will be to roll this out in Moreland and a partner community and evaluate the effectiveness. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

## Upcoming presentations

- Riggs E, (co-authors TBC) Teeth Tales: Addressing child oral health inequalities in refugee and migrant communities, Victorian Dental & Oral Health Therapist Association, Healesville, August 2011
- Johnson B, (co-authors TBC) Refugee and migrant child oral health: The Teeth Tales pilot study, PHAA 41st Annual Conference, Brisbane Convention Centre, 26 -28 September 2011.
- Gibbs L, (co-authors TBC) Teeth Tales: a case study of a community-based intervention trial, and a partnership approach to oral health research. Australia Pacific Region-International Association for Dental Research September 2011

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### Our Partners:

