

Migrant Services and Programs – Migrant Resource Centres

Review of Post Arrival Programs and Services for Migrants Migrant Services and Programs Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service, 1978, p 65.

Proposals for Migrant Resource Centres in the Galbally Report

6.3... Funding would be provided mainly for the employment of a co-ordinator and a receptionist and for the rent of suitable accommodation. We envisage that the centres would provide a base from which ethnic groups could work locally and provide some or all of the following:

- (a) multilingual welfare counselling services through officers seconded from ethnic or other community organisations or from government agencies;
- (b) facilities for meetings of ethnic groups;
- (c) facilities for English language classes, orientation programs, etc.;
- (d) facilities for cultural activities;
- (e) general information and referral;
- (f) promotion of greater awareness of the needs and problems of migrants among local service providers;
- (g) promotion of the appreciation of the cultural backgrounds of migrants among the local community;
- (h) co-ordination of services and multicultural activities in the local area;
- (i) assistance to emerging ethnic groups.

We envisage that...these resource centres would be phased in gradually with a monitoring of their progress to ensure that services reflect the needs of clients....

6.4 It will be essential that the operation of the centres allows for community involvement and encourages volunteers, especially from the ethnic communities, for a range of self-help activities. We are convinced that such a localised development is a practical and effective way to meet the needs of migrants...