

CULTURAL DIVERSITY PROGRAM FOCUS

August 2017

Breast Cancer Network Australia's (BCNA) cultural diversity program aims to provide accessible and appropriate information and support to people affected by breast cancer from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Following research and consultation within the cancer, breast cancer and multicultural sectors, we have developed a number of projects to support people from Italian, Greek, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic communities. We are now looking to expand our reach and provide more support to diverse backgrounds.

For many years, our **Community Liaison program** has increased awareness of the impact of breast cancer and the support available for people affected by breast cancer across Australia. We recruit, train and support women affected by breast cancer to become BCNA Community Liaison volunteers. These volunteers connect BCNA to their communities by sharing their personal experience of breast cancer and how those affected can find support.

Why culturally diverse Community Liaisons?

Women diagnosed with breast cancer tell us how important it is for them to hear and connect with others who have been diagnosed. When English is their second language, women tell us they want to hear those stories in their own language and from the perspective of their own background. Community Liaisons from culturally diverse backgrounds help to strengthen BCNA's links with their communities and help BCNA deliver appropriate resources and programs.

How is the Community Liaison role different for women from culturally diverse backgrounds?

Community Liaisons from culturally diverse backgrounds have the same role as all Community Liaisons, but they also have a focus on engaging with their cultural community.

In some cases, Community Liaisons from culturally diverse backgrounds may also assist with reviewing breast cancer resources in their language or assisting BCNA to plan for events with their community.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for bilingual women from diverse cultural backgrounds who have had a diagnosis of breast cancer. We invite women from a range of culturally diverse backgrounds who are interested in the role to apply. Ideally, women will have experienced breast cancer more than one year ago to ensure they feel well and ready to take on the Community Liaison role.

Women interested in becoming a BCNA Community Liaison need to feel comfortable and able to:

- attend our training program, which is delivered in English
- help BCNA connect with their communities
- be passionate about informing and supporting other women with breast cancer
- proudly represent BCNA within their communities.

How to apply?

Applying to BCNA's Community Liaison program includes completing an **application form** and an informal telephone interview process.

More information?

To read the Community Liaison role description and download an **application form**, visit bcna.org.au/become-a-community-liaison, or contact Ms Inaam Barakat, Cultural Diversity Officer, to express your interest.

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