



New and emerging communities

In the five-year period from 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2022, a total of 42,637 newly arrived migrants settled in SESLHD, with most arriving under Skilled and Family Reunion Migration Programs and a small number arriving as Humanitarian entrants.

The large drop in new arrivals compared to that previously reported (64,257 between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2017) can largely be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in Australia's border closure over a period of two years and a large drop in international student numbers. In SESLHD, the University of New South Wales campus in Kensington was largely unoccupied during 2020-2022, which has had a significant impact on the number of new arrivals to SESLHD.¹

The top 10 mainly non-English speaking countries of birth from which new arrivals came included

China (n=6,889); Nepal (n=5,079); India (n=2,385); Brazil (n=1,730); Philippines (n=1,469); Indonesia (n=1,463); Italy (1,218); Vietnam (n=1,020); France (n=981) and Thailand (n=700).¹

As a result of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, SESLHD has become home to increasing numbers of Ukrainian arrivals.



The key issues for new and emerging communities include:

- Lack of cultural competency within health service providers
- Language barriers to accessing health services
- Low levels of health literacy
- Difficulties navigating the health system
- Access to bilingual General Practitioners (GPs)
- Cost of health care, including medications
- Family living arrangements that can impact on health of community members including overcrowding, pressures of familial parenting arrangements and domestic and family violence, and
- Impact of migration journeys, stress associated with migration and settlement and the impact of torture and trauma for people of refugee and refugee-like backgrounds.

Spotlight on Mongolian Community

The Mongolian community is a new and emerging community in SESLHD with increased numbers noted in the 2016 Census.

A Needs and Assets Assessment of this community was conducted in 2022 by the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, University of NSW. Priority areas of concern included: accessing health care; language support; maternal, child and family health; emotional well-being and mental health; hepatitis testing and treatment; women's health; and other health concerns such as work-related injuries and environmental irritants.

The Multicultural Health Team, along with other key services across SESLHD are currently addressing many of the areas identified including:

- Working with the community and service providers to translate key health information.
- Continued monitoring of interpreter usage statistics including demand for Mongolian language and advocacy for the employment of additional Mongolian speaking interpreters.
- An update of patient facing interpreter promotional resources to include Mongolian language.
- Providing direct support to the community via a Mongolian Mother's Group to increase health literacy around mental health, antenatal care, child development, women's health and accessing appropriate services.

1. Department of Home Affairs 2023, 'Settlement Database'.