



# Migrant Welfare Workers (1970-90s) and the Frontlines of Australian Multiculturalism

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*This series is an ANU-wide collaboration spearheaded by the **Migration Hub @ ANU**, in collaboration with the **School of Archaeology and Anthropology***

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The perspectives of ethnic-minority and migrant-background women are pivotal to understanding the history of multiculturalism as an access and equity issue. This paper draws on oral histories conducted with welfare advocates and migrant women in Sydney and Melbourne, in combination with archival records and government funded reports on migrant industrial workers and welfare concerns from the 1970s to the 1990s.

The research is part of a broader project that historicises the development of welfare and social service delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia, beginning with the perspectives of grassroots advocates and community welfare workers in the 1970s. In that economic and social context, they were concerned with: the availability of culturally appropriate and accessible occupation health and safety measures; workplace entitlements for migrant workers and their families (including workplace rehabilitation and compensation); and broader health (including mental health) care access for non-English-speaking background communities.

The issues they tackled were complex and, in many ways, remain prescient nearly fifty years since the introduction of a national multicultural policy, and state multicultural bureaucracies.

## Details

**Thursday 24 August, 3-4pm**

In person, Jean Martin Room,  
Beryl Rawson Bldg (#13)

[Online via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 865 5770 1787

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