

Preface

This collection of tables presented in this volume summarises the state of service use for 15 of the largest birthplace and language groups from non-English speaking backgrounds, in addition to providing information for those of Australian background and English-speaking background Population information (i.e. catchment data) is also presented, according to the 1996 population Census. The tables are segregated into those addressing a statewide description and those relating to each mental health region or network. Within the regional/network section there are tables available for the specific Area Mental Health Services. Both community service and inpatient service use data are summarised. In addition to raw counts (e.g. the number of community contacts, number of admission episodes, etc) the collection of tables includes rate estimates of service use on a per 10,000 head of population scale. These are calculated by dividing the raw service use data by the population size for each of the ethnic groups considered here. The strategy answers the question of: "What are the rates of service use for each ethnic community? and, Is there parity in these rates?" Where rates are found to differ between groups issues can be raised about what factors contribute to disparities in service provision and how managers and clinical staff may begin to redress these where deemed necessary. Further details of the methods and analytical strategy are described in the Report.

We hope that this compilation of tables is useful to all but in particular to managers and clinical staff in mental health who are in a position to make decisions regarding service developments and provision. We hope that a positive outcome of this work will be to allocate resources in an efficient manner applying new service models where they are most likely to have their maximum benefit to our ethno-linguistically diverse community in Victoria.

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