



The Victorian Transcultural Psychiatry Unit (VTPU) would like to congratulate Mr Harry Gelber, Cultural Portfolio Holder at Royal Children Hospital (RCH) Mental Health Service Travancore, who was recently awarded an OAM (Medal in the Order of Australia, Queen’s Birthday Honours List). Harry received this award for his service to the community through the establishment of mental health programs supporting children and the Indigenous community. Harry has been working in this area for many years and is a very passionate advocate for Transcultural Mental Health issues both within his service and in the broader community.



In one of his many roles, Harry convened a workshop last year at Royal Children’s Hospital CAMHS in collaboration with the VTPU, African Holistic Settlement Services and New Hope Foundation titled “Working effectively with African Children and their Families”. This was a professional development initiative for staff working in the mental health and education sectors, and was delivered to assist clinicians develop skills in working with the diverse African communities settling in RCH catchment area. The workshop content addressed issues regarding African migration to Australia, refugee and trauma experiences, and appropriate use of psychological assessment instruments.

Harry currently convenes a Cultural Working Group at RCH which brings together key community stakeholders with the aim of collaborating around cultural diversity issues in the RCH catchment area. Harry is very passionate about working to ensure that clinicians at RCH have the necessary skills for engaging in culturally sensitive interventions with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) children and their families. The VTPU would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Harry on his achievements in being awarded the OAM.

