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Bridging palliative and community care to provide end-of-life support for migrant communities

The research aims were to understand the different cultural needs relating to death and dying of migrant populations in Western Sydney, and how end-of-life care can be provided in culturally safe ways which can, in turn, inform policies that shape palliative care and bereavement service delivery. The mixed methods design for this study used an online quantitative Death Literacy survey (Leonard et al., 2021), key informant qualitative interviews, culture-based community focus groups, and individual Photovoice interviews (Wang & Burris 1997). In all, 266 participants across the three largest migrant communities and area health services took part in this research. The results revealed the importance of cultural practices and rituals for people at end-of-life and that providing space for them is crucial to cultural safety in service contexts. So too, relational trust and the need for community input on the services that affect them. There is also a need for greater knowledge and understanding in the end-of-life space through two-way exchanges between communities and service providers. Finally, there are important ways that existing services can facilitate cultural safety and ways of increasing the availability of culturally appropriate palliative and end-of-life services for the community.

Keywords: Migrant communities; Palliative care; Death Literacy; Community services

Biography

Rosemary Leonard's research interests include Social Capital and community development particularly around end-of-life care; Compassionate Communities; and Death Literacy.