DAMEC

Health. Wellbeing. Diversity.

Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre

Alison Jaworski – Project Officer

Proportion of NSW's population born overseas (2011 Census)

a) 6%

b) 16%

c) 26%

d) 36%

Proportion of NSW AOD closed treatment episodes for clients born overseas (2014-15)

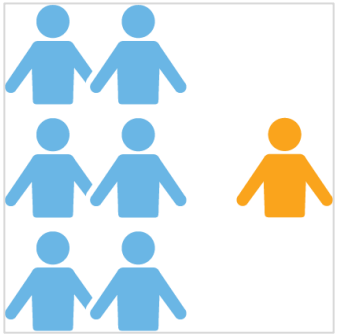
a) 1%

b) 11%

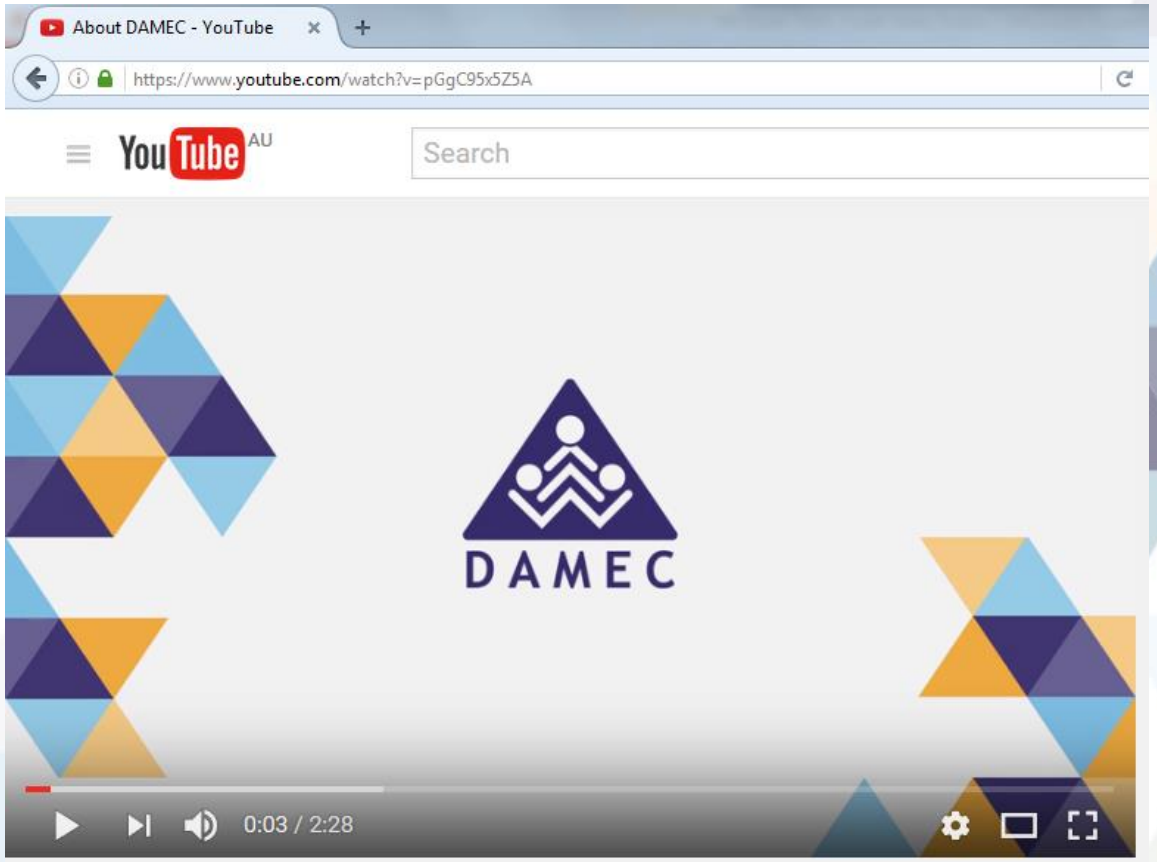
c) 21%

d) 31%

- Rates of problematic AOD use may be lower in overseas-born communities
- But this doesn't explain the entire gap we see
- Likely to be other factors involved:
  - Lack of knowledge of Australian health and treatment systems
  - Lower rates of referral to some programs
  - Lack of culturally accessible services
  - Fear of visa/immigration implications



About DAMEC


About DAMEC - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGgC95x5Z5A
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About DAMEC

Drug and Alcohol Counselling

- Free, no professional referral required
- Bilingual/Bicultural Counsellors, Family Worker, Psychologist
- Individual and family counselling
- Group programs (anger management, relapse prevention)

Transitions

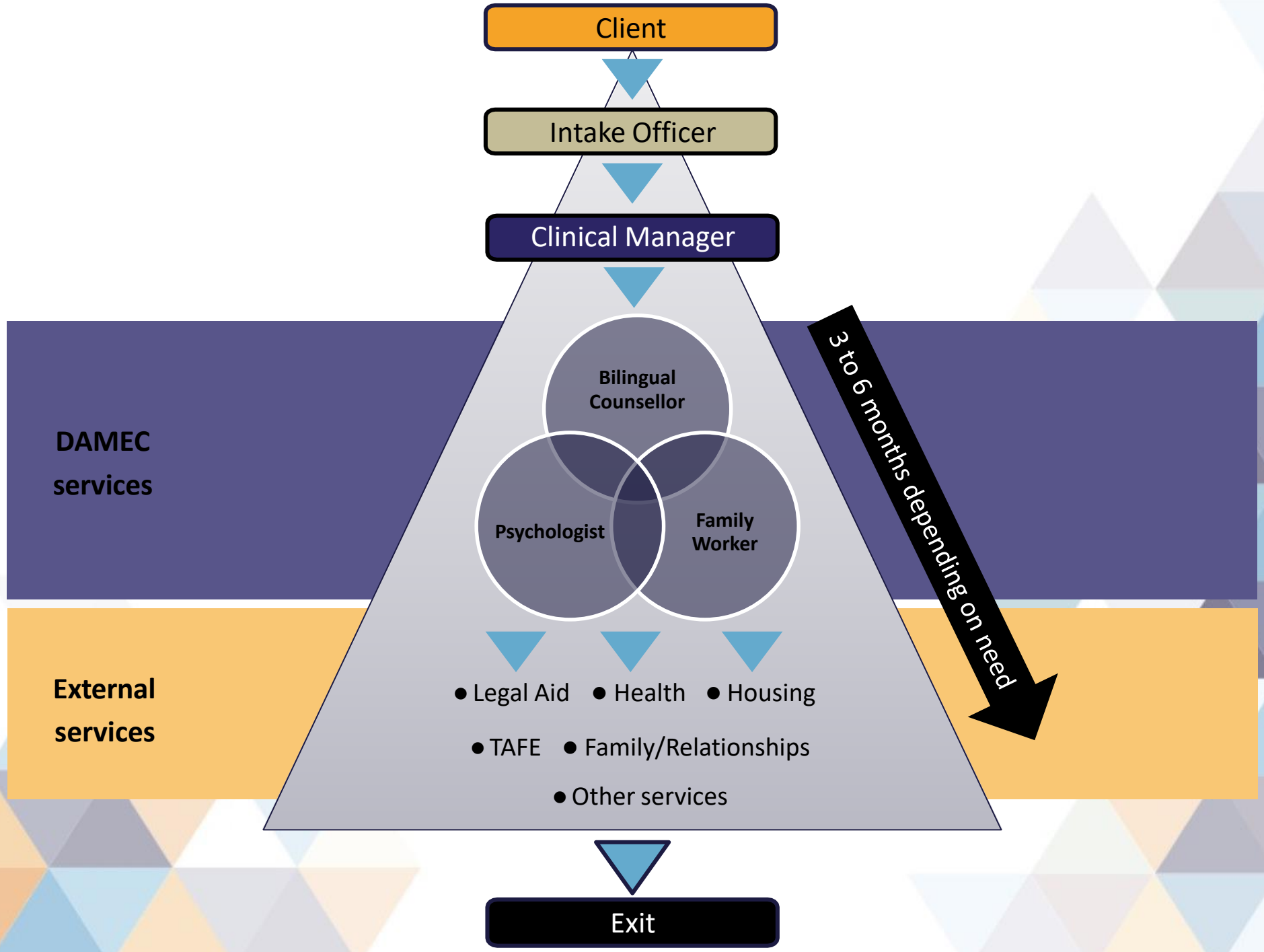
- Arabic or Vietnamese-speaking people with drug and alcohol issues who are leaving prison, intending to live in Western or South Western Sydney
- 3 months pre-release to 6 months post-release
- Intensive case management
  - Home visits/ community based support
  - Linkage to housing services, AOD treatment, financial support, health, education, employment
  - Family support

Research, Health Promotion and Workforce Development

- Supporting health / welfare professionals to provide accessible and equitable services to CALD communities.
- Consultancy and support for AOD initiatives within CALD communities

Case Study 1: “Peter”

- Refugee background
- Use of heroin, methamphetamines and cannabis
- Treated for depression
- Other issues: unemployment, homelessness, Hepatitis C; traumatic brain injury; cultural disconnection

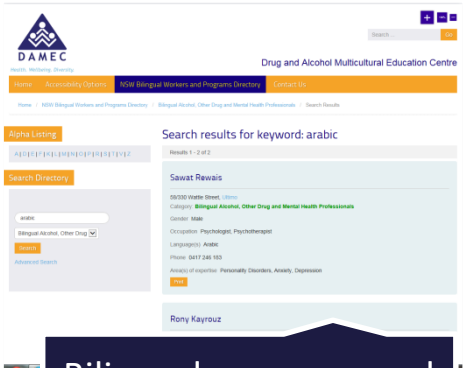

Client
Intake Officer
Clinical Manager
DAMEC services
Bilingual Counsellor
Psychologist
Family Worker
3 to 6 months depending on need
External services
● Legal Aid ● Health ● Housing
● TAFE ● Family/Relationships
● Other services
Exit

DAMEC's culturally responsive model

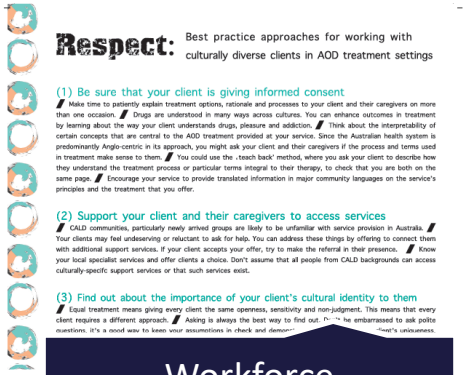
What was useful for engaging "Peter" in treatment

- Worker understanding of community background, cultural norms, migration experiences and using these understandings in treatment
- Working with the family
- Cross sector collaboration and accompanying "Peter" to mainstream services

www.damec.org.au



Bilingual programs and practitioners directory



Workforce development resources

Links to translated information

Contact Us

Suite 102, Level 1,
114-116 Main St
Blacktown NSW 2148

Drug and Alcohol
Multicultural
Education Centre

T: (02) 8706 0150
F: (02) 8706 0154
E: admin@counselling.damec.org.au