MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 29 April 2015

**NEW PARENTING RESOURCES FOR REFUGEE AND MIGRANT FAMILIES LAUNCHED**

New online resources to help build parenting skills and family cohesion in newly arrived refugee and migrant families have been launched by Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre in Melbourne today.

The new resources have been developed to build the capacity of the community services sector in response to increasing demand for specialist family intervention and parenting support in refugee and migrant communities in metropolitan Melbourne.

The resources are designed to be used as part of a facilitated parenting education program delivered to families by health and social welfare professionals. They are intended for use by professionals working in the areas of child and family services, family intervention, child protective services and settlement services.

The new resources – which include a new purpose-built website, downloadable family resources in English, Arabic and Farsi and a professional user guide – can be accessed online and downloaded free by health and community service workers and families.

The new online materials will bolster existing resources available as part of Spectrum MRC’s popular **Parenting in a New Culture** program, which has been operating in metropolitan Melbourne since 2004. The program is available free to all health and community services professionals working with newly arrived refugee and migrant communities.

**Parenting in a New Culture** is an early intervention and prevention program developed by Spectrum MRC that provides culturally sensitive parenting education through facilitated workshops and downloadable family resources, supported by professional instruction materials.

Program materials are available for six cultural communities (Congolese, Burundian, Liberian Sierra Leonean, Arabic, Chinese and Samoan) in eight languages (English, French, Farsi, Swahili, Kirundi, Arabic, Mandarin and Samoan). Further languages will be developed when funding can be secured.

The **Parenting in a New Culture** program is highly regarded within the settlement services sector. An independent evaluation of the program by the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children’s Hospital found course participants demonstrated increased parenting knowledge and reported having applied the techniques learned from the guides following program completion.

The **Parenting in a New Culture** program has been funded by the Department of Social Services since 2004. The Communities for Children program funded the most recent program updates.

The resources can be accessed at <http://www.parentinginanewculture.org.au>.

Ends#

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**NOTES**

**Further information about Parenting in a New Culture program**

For further information about the Parenting in a New Culture program or current/new program resources, please contact Aimee Griffin, General Manager Settlement & Family Services, Spectrum MRC on tel: 03 9496 0200 or email: [aimeeg@spectrumvic.org.au](mailto:aimeeg@spectrumvic.org.au).

**Media enquires**

Spectrum MRC is available for comment and interview. Please contact Jenny Donnithorne at Mint Health on mobile: 0412 061 909 or email: [jennyd@minthealth.com.au](mailto:jennyd@minthealth.com.au)