

The National Youth Settlement Framework: A Toolkit for Family Aware Practice when Working with Young People

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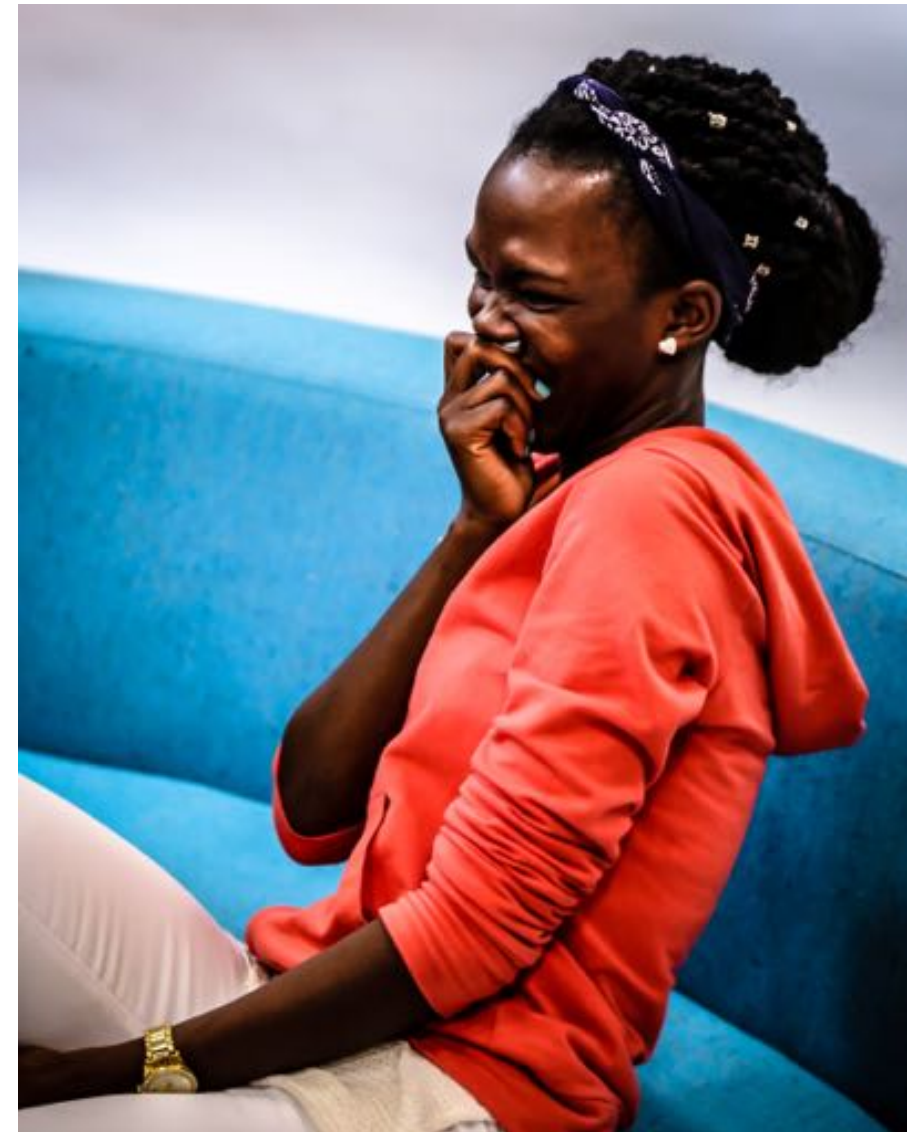
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Youth Work in the Family Context

Family relationships provide young people with a sense of belonging, support in negotiating challenges and difficult transitions, and connection to shared values, culture and history.

- Centre for Multicultural Youth, 2011



MYAN NSW

Vision

Our vision is that all young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW can access the support and opportunities they need to be active citizens in Australian society.



Who we are

- We are the first state-wide multicultural youth specialist organisation.
- We engage, connect and build the capacity of the youth, settlement and multicultural sectors to effectively meet the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
- We support the development of young people's skills and networks to engage in advocacy and influence the state, national and international agenda.



What we do

- Training and professional development;
- Policy advice and development;
- eNews, information and referral;
- Network meetings;
- Research partnerships;
- Youth Ambassador Program;
- State and national youth events.



What is the National Youth Settlement Framework?

- Australia's first national framework for understanding and responding to the needs of young people in settlement
- Evidence-based guidelines on good practice – conceptual and practical resource
- Designed to enable services to respond more effectively to the specific needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds
- Four components – youth settlement context, indicators for good youth settlement, good practice capabilities and supplementary resources

What informs the NYSF?

- Consultations with young people, youth and settlement sectors, government
- Australian government policy - settlement, multicultural, access & equity
- UNHCR resettlement guidelines
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Youth work principles
- Policy and service delivery work of Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY),
Multicultural Youth South Australia (MYSA), MYAN Australia

Why do we need the NYSF?

- Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds have particular needs and circumstances
- Experience settlement in ways distinct from adults: age, developmental stage and position within the family
- Often navigate additional and more complex transitions than Australian-born counterparts
- Needs often overlooked - sub-group within the broader mainstream youth population and/or the multicultural population
- Importance of a targeted approach – build on strengths, address needs & support sustained participation and engagement in Australian society



Why a targeted approach to youth settlement?

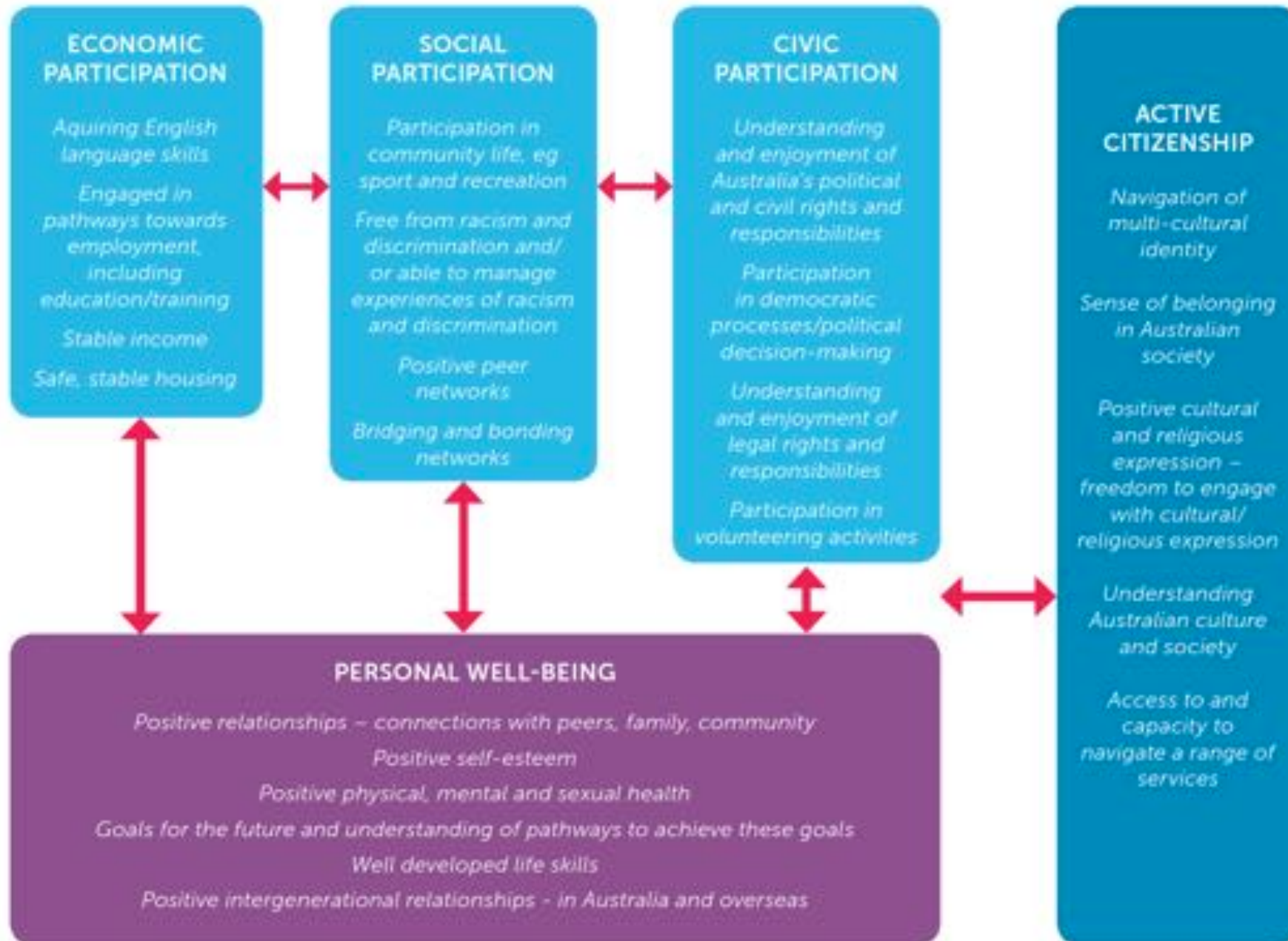
- 25% of Australia's young people (aged 12-24) are from a CALD background (CALD Youth Census Report 2014)
- 18% of all migrants between 2010/11 and 2015/16 (combined Humanitarian and Migration Programme)
- Approximately one-third of Humanitarian entrants between 2010/11 – 2015/16 (MYAN Australia Humanitarian Youth Arrivals Info Sheets)

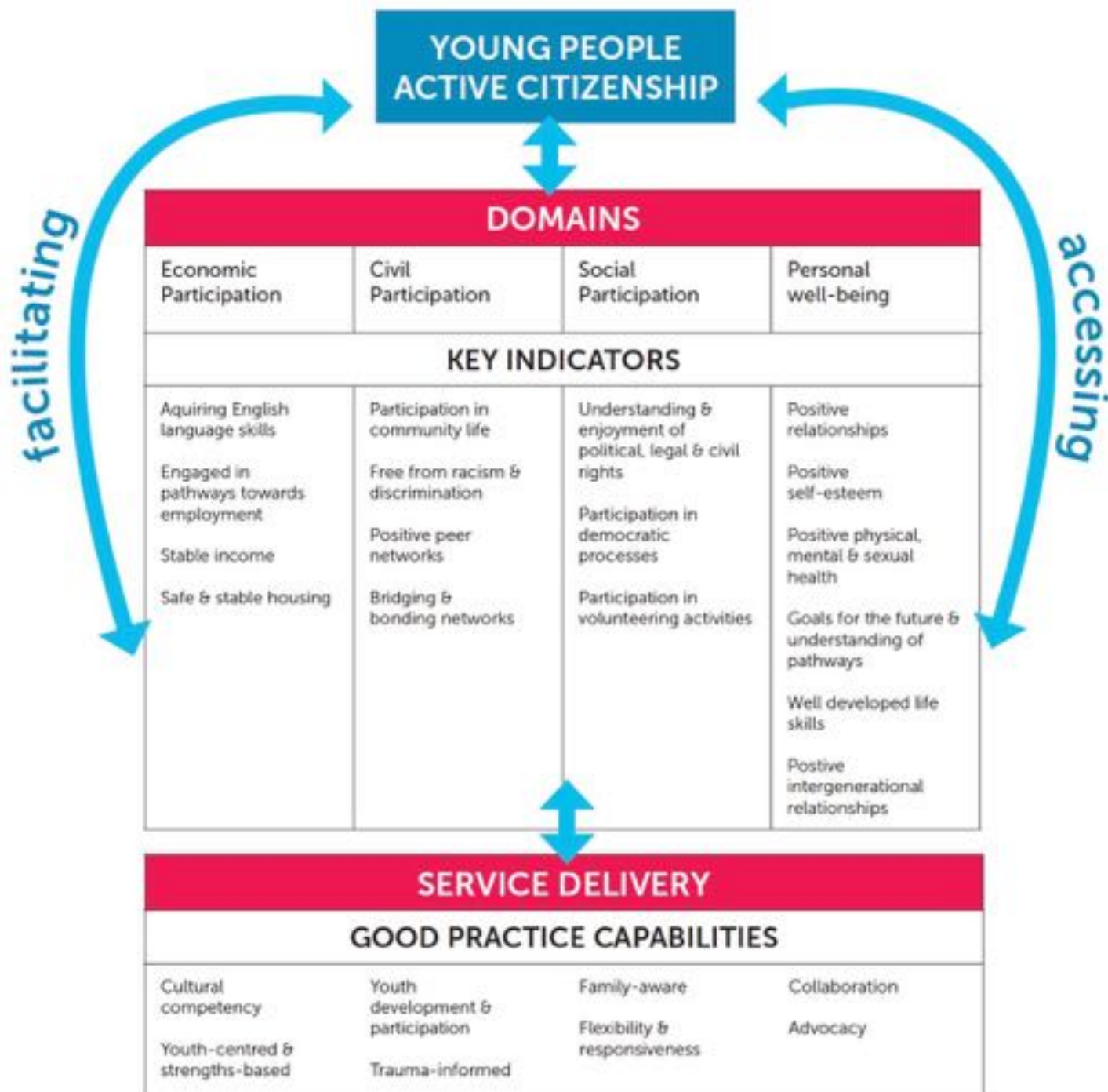


Good youth settlement – Active Citizenship

- Building agency and social capital: skills, confidence, networks to be active participants of and contributors to Australian society
- Working at individual, family and community levels
- Four dimensions – social, economic, civic participation, personal well-being
- Underpinned by good practice capabilities – service delivery level
- Supporting young people's active citizenship - significant and long-term benefits for individuals, family, community, diverse and multicultural Australia

Figure 1. Domains and indicators of active citizenship





8 Good Practice Capabilities

- Cultural competency
- Youth centred and strengths-based
- Youth development and participation
- Trauma informed
- Family-aware
- Flexibility and responsiveness
- Collaboration
- Advocacy



What does the NYSF say about family-aware practice?

- Recognises the impact the refugee and migrant experience has on the family.
- Recognises the role that family plays in a young person's life.
- Relationships with family provide young people with a sense of belonging and support.
- Concept of family may be broader and more complex than Western constructs or understandings.

Strategies to put into practice

- Supporting family connection
- Confidentiality
- Responding to family conflict
- Collaboration and working with other agencies



Supporting family connection

- Take time to build open and trusting relationships
- Use interpreters
- Young people as 'cultural teachers'
- Flexible
- Learn about the family, its structure and meaning of family
- Assist family connections with school
- Providing family-friendly activities
- Mediate with and advocate for young people
- Sit with discomfort
- Seek support



Confidentiality

- Young person is your primary client – consent comes from them first
- Young people have agency and control
- Explain the benefit of working with their family
- Learn about family dynamics



Responding to family conflict

- Young person is your primary focus, but acknowledge the role of the “parents”
- Support development of communication strategies
- Show respect for position, beliefs and experiences
- Learn about all family members’ perspectives
- Acknowledge fears and that parents want what is best
- Acknowledging traditional processes for dealing with family conflict



Collaboration

- Value working with other agencies
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Sharing information, consent and confidentiality



What is the impact?

Family aware practice is the difference between participating and not participating.

It's the difference between accessing opportunities and not accessing them.



Get in touch and get a copy of the NYSF

Download the NYSF and the resources:

<http://www.myan.org.au/our-work-with-the-sector/>

Get in touch!

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