

From: Claude Pasquini [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 11:41 AM
To: oldervictoriansinquiry
Subject: Submission Older Victorians Inquiry

Hi

I have elderly parents(Italian) who live in Latrobe Valley and what I've noticed is that I've become their voice in all matters associated with their lives especially when it comes to the medical side of things.

Quite a few specialists & GPs don't hire an interpreter and then one becomes the parent's interpreter.

For example, both of my parents were being assessed for Dementia and I became the interpreter when they had to do the assessment.

Mind you I notified the Hospital - Consulting Suites that we required an Interpreter.

I've notified the Latrobe Valley Council representative that due to an ethnic elderly population in Latrobe Valley when they the Council made statements for example re Hazelwood Fires, COVID etc that they should put a notice in the various languages in the local paper but that fell on deaf ears. I haven't seen anything yet.

Many ethnic elderly people in Latrobe Valley have other health issues such as Diabetes, Dementia/Alzheimer, it would be beneficial to have a representative from these organisations to come down and speak to them in their language so they have a further understanding.

Yes, and I'm assuming here that they do understand when spoken to in English but when one is older most of them revert more to their mother language.

I've also noticed a lack of GPs in the area and if they good at their job they don't stay long and then patients have to start all over again to find a good one and have that repour with them but also for the GP to understand their culture etc

It has also been brought to my attention at the Local Hospital (again I did notify them a few years ago) to have signs not only in English but in other languages and again I haven't seen that.

Regards

Adele Pasquini

