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To <vplrc@parliament.vic.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Inquiry Into Powers of Attorney

Dear Helen,

Following our recent telephone discussion and in response to the letter regarding the Victorian Parliament Law Reform Committee's Inquiry into Powers of Attorney ADEC can suggest the following:

- o All ethnic communities should be informed about the inquiry and consulted about the process. Focus groups could be a useful way of sourcing the views from different communities.
- o Information will need to be provided in different languages.
- o Legal terminology and concepts (such as 'guardian', 'carer', 'power of attorney') will need to be defined and clarified in a culturally appropriate manner. The concept of "Powers of Attorney" may not exist in other cultures and may not translate into other languages.
- o Historically, translated legal material has not always been accurate or clear. Translators and interpreters need to receive appropriate training to be able to accurately explain terminology and processes. Translations must be checked by the community members.
- o Information/instructions should be tailored to the needs of the target group. Forms/applications should be translated into different languages and be made user friendly: simpler language that is easy to translate and interpret.
- o Collective cultures include members of the family and the community in terms of care taking and decision making. Responsibility for an individual may extend beyond immediate family members.
- o Medical and legal professionals involved in assessments and processes need to ensure that all information is appropriately communicated and that all relevant persons in the donor's life are consulted. Interpreters must be utilized where necessary.
- o Key workers already engaged with a donor may be a useful source of information when decisions are made. This however must be done in consultation with the donor and the family.

- o Legal processes if not explained in a culturally sensitive manner may be threatening to those from countries with repressive regimes and civil wars.
- o Extensive ethnic community education conducted in a culturally sensitive way will be required to achieve successful outcomes. Cross cultural training needs to be provided to the community educators and legal/medial professionals.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 94801666 or through this email address.

Regards

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