



24 April 2023

## SydWest Multicultural Services and Participate Australia join forces to benefit the community

SydWest Multicultural Services is pleased to announce the upcoming merger with Participate Australia, effective 1 May 2023. Participate Australia is an organisation that specialises in the provision of support services to people living with disability and their carers.

Participate Australia brings deep knowledge, skills, and expertise in disability services to further the range of SydWest's operations, that help complement and grow services in Western Sydney where the uptake of disability services by individuals from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds remain low. In turn, SydWest's CALD expertise and the strength in culturally appropriate aged care will assist the increasing number of seniors seeking care in the Inner West and the City of Sydney, whose first language is not English.

This decision by both Boards marks a new chapter in our combined 80-year history and sends a strong message to our sector. Our strengths need to be celebrated and leveraged, with the community always at heart of what we do. For both organisations to continue to provide valued services and to grow and prosper and meet the needs of the community, it was important to join forces. This partnership will provide continuity of front-line services along with the opportunity to improve the customer experience and grow the capabilities of our dedicated workforces.

SydWest Multicultural Services and Participate Australia will continue to operate with business as usual, with clients and carers to remain unaffected by the merger. With the resignation of SydWest board member, Angela Tsoukos in her role as CEO of Participate Australia, Elfa Moraitakis will continue her leadership role as the Chief Executive Officer of SydWest Multicultural Services, and support the employees of Participate Australia to transition to the changes in corporate governance and internal structures. Angela will remain on the board of SydWest and continue providing her valuable insights on Participate Australia's operations.

Both organisations will continue to operate with business as usual, ensuring business continuity and no disruption for our participants and carers in order to maximise the benefits of the merger.

The partnership will enable a broader footprint and an increased range of culturally responsive aged care and disability services to be offered across both the Inner West and Greater Western Sydney to meet the increasing needs of CALD communities' said Elfa Moraitakis, SydWest Multicultural Services CEO.

### STATEMENT ENDS /

Media Enquiries:

For further information or to arrange interviews and photo opportunities, contact Vikki Hine, Media and Events, SydWest Multicultural Services on vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au or 0428-109-215.



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Established nearly 40 years ago, SydWest Multicultural Services is a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities across Greater Western Sydney. SydWest provides a range of services to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community. We offer flexible and integrated service models across the life course of refugees and migrants, supporting the self-determination and empowerment of our diverse communities. SydWest is an innovative employer of choice, with passionate, qualified and experienced bilingual and bicultural staff who are sensitive to the languages and cultures of the communities we represent.