

## 8. DEALING WITH CULTURAL ISSUES

*Reference: Psychosocial Clinical Practice Guidelines (1999), pp.47-52.*

### **EVIDENCE**

- Women from non-English speaking backgrounds and/or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds may require services, such as interpreters & resources written in their language to participate in decision-making (Level IVa).

### **OBJECTIVE**

When consulting with a woman with breast disease who has limited understanding of English &/or is from a culturally diverse background, ensure that she has appropriate information & support to enable her to make informed choices.

## Cultural issues

### CHECKLIST

- Be aware of cultural & individual values, beliefs & behaviours that may affect understanding of, & adjustment to diagnosis & treatment.
- Have recognised & appropriate interpreter at consultations if the woman has a limited understanding of English (with the woman's consent) (section 12.3.2).  
**Please note, professional interpreting services are preferable to the use of family members.**
- Reinforce to the family that their role is to be part of the woman's support network, rather than being interpreters.
- Organise a volunteer from Breast Cancer Support Services to provide support for the woman from a culturally diverse background (if required) (section 12.1.1).
- Ideally a Breast Care Nurse will be present at consultations.
- Provide the woman with access to written information in her own language.
- Explain that formal support services are available and give a list of contact numbers for support services (section 12).
- Provide culturally appropriate health care workers, when possible, eg. Koori Health Worker for Koori women.