

BURMESE COMMUNITY

Facilator : Evelyn Pe

1. What was the health system in your country like ?

The health system in Myanmar was totally different from Australia. Because firstly, people are not used go to see doctor for regular health check-up. They went to see doctor if they were really sick otherwise they tried to take medication by themselves or taking advise from family and friends. Because every time you go to see doctor, you need to pay. You can't see doctor if you don't have money. In public hospitals, there were free services but not for normal illnesses only for serious illnesses, injuries and some medical conditions such as child delivery or appendicitis. All services are free but you need to buy some medication for yourself especially drip bottles. When you go to hospital you need to fill form but not many questions like Australia. They asked for your address, your age and your illness. They never asked for your GP because people always go different GPs especially the cheapest one. All GPs were different prices to charge to patient and some GP sell medication the same time. But they can get medication for their illness. In here they have to do so many tests first and wait for treatment. Long period of waiting, sometime all their sickness was disappeared when they got results back. In here you don't need to pay for blood test and normal X rays over there you need to pay every services only free from public hospitals. They can buy all medication without prescription over the counter if you know the name of medication.

No concession

No medical insurance. in our country.

2. What expectation have people from your community brought to the Australia Health System?

People from my community, they expected to get treatment, medication straight away when they went to see doctors. But they can't get the same ways like our country so they disappointed for that. Besides, in over there they can see specialists if they can afford, they don't need any referral letters for to see specialists. So their expectation was they like to see specialist straight away if they think they needed. Another issue was waiting time to see health professional. Their expectations have to see doctors or specialists or treatments or to get services as soon as possible not long period of waiting.

3. What have been the surprises and disappointments in the Australian Health System?

The surprises are many tests for simple disease or illness especially blood test for most of the times. But surprises are all free of charges and hospital staffs reminded for their appointments and most doctors and hospital staffs were very kind even they don't understand the language. Disappointments are long waiting time and not get treatment straightaway and they cannot buy medication without prescription so they need to see doctor for only to get prescriptions without sick in Australian Health System.