

APPENDIX A: CULTURAL SUPPORT PLAN CHECKLIST (DETAILED)

Record	Yes	No	More Information
Birth certificate			
Medicare Card or Health Care Card			
Personal Photo's or Life story			
Your Departmental case file			

Practice Tip:

Amongst refugees, asylum seekers, UHM's and UAMS there is a great deal of anxiety, embarrassment, and fear around 'identity documents'. Most arrive here in Australia without any documents at all. A small percentage has intentionally arrived without documents. Even for these children there remains a great deal of fear around conversations that relate to documents of identity. For some children and young people, it will be very difficult to get access to original birth certificate and this may hinder the application for Australian Passport (seek advice from Department of Immigration).

The majority don't have documents for a number of reasons:

- They were never recognised as a citizen of their birth country because they were from a minority race/religion etc and their government refused to give them identity documents for those reasons and there is a great deal of shame attached to that as well as experiences of disconnectedness and loss of a sense of belonging anywhere
- They come from a peasant/village/very poor socio economic background and their parents never had the funds to get documents such as birth certificate, and there is a great deal of shame and embarrassment attached to that.
- Documents were seized/ destroyed (often this included family photographs and memorabilia – very meaningful things) under very violent and terrifying circumstances. Thus there remains a great deal of trauma around 'documents' and memories attached to that.

We need to check the 'assumptions' we make, especially those inherent in our institutional languages and ensure we understand the range of possible meanings for individual children that language may have.

Consider instead how you could engage with a child respectfully and sensitively about records/documents/photos/memorabilia that you may need and at this point and do not have. Consider also that there may be other persons that you could approach for this information and not necessarily the child directly.

Culture	Yes	No	More Information
Do you identify from a Culturally and linguistically Diverse background (e.g. Pacific Islander, Chinese)?			
Do you follow any cultural customs or traditions (dance, music, art)?			
Do you participate in any cultural community activities (e.g. festivals)?			

Practice Tip:

Use language a child would understand (Enter their world and see through their eyes, experience as they would experience in your use of 'language').

Do you identify from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background (e.g. Pacific Islander)? Conversation prompt examples:

- Where do you come from in the world?
- Were you born in this country? Do you remember being little there?
- What was your house like?

Food and dietary requirements:

- What type of food did you used to eat at your parents house?
- Do you have any special dietary requirements (E.g. vegetarian, Halaal meat, and vegan?)
- Would you like to keep eating these foods from your home country?
- What are your favourites? Do you have recipes?
- Do you know how to cook them? Who use to cook these foods for you? Can only mums /dads cook these foods?

Do you follow any cultural customs or traditions (dance, music, art)?

Conversation prompt examples:

- Did you dance when you were little?
- Do you remember who taught you to dance?
- Do you remember if there were special occasions when people danced?
- Were there special occasions when you danced?
- What did you wear when you danced?
- Were there special costumes? What did they look like?
- Do you still like to dance?
- Does anyone in your family play musical instruments? What instrument do they play? Can we find a picture of this instrument?
- Do you remember anyone painting or drawing or working with wood or stone to make beautiful things to look at?
- Do you like doing any of these things?

Practice Tip: continued

Do you participate in any cultural community activities (e.g. festivals)?

Conversation prompt examples:

- Do you know about the festivals from your country that are celebrated here in Australia?
- Have you ever been to any here?
- Who did go with? What kinds of things do you remember about these festivals?
- If you have never been would like you to go sometime? What could you imagine you would like about such festivals?
- Do you remember special days back in your home country when your family celebrated different things?
- Was there special food and guests? Did people dress up?
- What else do you remember?
- Did you like these celebrations? Was there anything you didn't like about these celebrations/days/festivals?

Language:	Yes	No	More Information
Do you speak any language?			
Do you attend a language school?			

Practice Tip:

Conversation prompt examples:

- Do you speak any language?
- What language does your family speak? Can you speak this language?
- Do you like speaking this language?
- How many different languages can you speak?
- Are there some languages you don't like speaking?
- What is your favourite? Do you know why it is your favourite one?
- Could you say your name and how old you are and the most favourite thing in the whole world in your language for me now?
- Do you learn English at school? What is that like? Do you like it?
- Are you learning to speak any other languages? Who is teaching you? Do you like this?

Religion & Spirituality	Yes	No	More Information
Do you follow any Religion?			
Are you linked into any Church/Temple?			
Do you have any religious requirements or observance (e.g. food, dress, prayer)?			
Do you have any Spiritual beliefs?			

Practice Tip:

Conversation prompt examples:

Do you follow any religion?

- Do you know what religion means?
- What religion are you? Do you like being this religion?
- What do you like about this?

Do you have any spiritual beliefs?

- Find out whether the child/young person has any 'Spiritual beliefs'? (E.g. do they believe in dream time, folk lore stories, values and morals, connection with other people/culture/land)

Are you linked into any church/temple?

- Can you tell me anything you might know about temple/church/mosques?
- Have you been to this place before? Who did you go with?
- What did you like or what didn't you like about going to temple/church/mosque?
- Would you still like to go sometimes? Who would you like to go with?
- Did you dress up in special clothes when you went to temple/church/mosque?
- What were these clothes? Did you like dressing up in these clothes?
- Do you have any pictures of yourself/ your family in these clothes?

Do you have any religious requirements or observance (e.g. dress, prayer)?

- Are there special foods you like to eat that come from your home country?
- Are there foods you are not allowed to eat?
- Do you know why you are not allowed to eat these foods?
- Did you and your family say special prayers when you had these foods?
- In your home country did you pray at home?
- Would you like to be able to keep doing that now? How would you do this now?
- Would you need anything at home to be able to do this?

Immigration status	Yes	No	More Information
Australian citizen			
Permanent Resident			
Temporary Resident (e.g. Special Category Visa holder)			
Refugee/Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor (UHM)			
Asylum seeker			

Practice Tip:

Conversation prompt examples:

- What is your Immigration status?
- Do you know what a visa is?
- Have the immigration people given you visa yet?
- Are you still waiting? How long have you have waited now?
- Do you like living here in Australia? What do you like about this?
- What don't you like about this? Are you hopeful that soon you will get a visa?

Refugee/UHM/Asylum seeker (section only)	Yes	No	More Information
Are you linked in with any counselling service (Torture Trauma specific)?			

Practice Tip:

Conversation prompt examples:

- What do you remember about your country (E.g. war/conflict/bombings)?
- Did you have terrible experiences when you lived in your country or on your journey here to Australia?
- What do you remember about these experiences?
- Do you have scary dreams?
- Is someone helping you with this? Who is helping you?
- Would you like someone to help you with this?

Any other Extra-Curricular Activities?	Yes	No	More Information
Do you have any other activities that you wish to be continued or connected to?			

Practice Tip

Conversation prompt examples:

Sport:

- What sports did you like to play when you lived in your home country?
- Would you like to do that here?

Arts/Jewellery/Painting:

- Did you make bracelets or jewellery / dresses/ other things from fabrics with your mum or sisters or other girls and women? What kind were they? Did you like doing this? Would you like to keep doing this? What material would you need?
- Did you make art in your home country? What did you make?
- Would you like to do that here or something like that here?

Music:

- Did you play any music instrument or participate in music related activities?
- Were you part of choir or singing?

Other Recreational activities:

- Find out what the child or young person did for fun?
- Include a list of possible activities as most children do not know what is possible here. Remember that such social situations as organised group activities and sports can be very challenging in so many different ways for these children and they will need to be accompanied for a short while until they feel comfortable and confident.