

What has the group been up to?  
Here are your key takeaways: Meeting 2





The group defined their focus areas:



Dr Matteo Vergani (Deakin University), Rana Ebrahimi (Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC), Dr Debra Smith (Victoria University) and Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli (AGMC) provided overview presentations on the focus areas.



Awareness raising,  
education and  
training

*Dr Matteo Vergani outlines research currently taking place to help underpin future conversation on reporting systems, capacity building and awareness raising. Including:*

- ✦ Research on understanding barriers and solutions to reporting hate among a wide spectrum of Victorian communities.
- ✦ A stocktake on current projects designed to tackle hate in Australia, including which organisations are currently collecting data on hate and how; which organisations are offering services to victims and how; which legislations is relevant in all Australia states.
- ✦ The development of targeted online training materials to upskill Victorian civil society organisations based on international best practice. This will include training on things like how to collect, analyse and share data.



*Rana Ebrahimi discusses the VEOHRC's Reducing Racism program and online reporting.*

Third party reporting systems and research

- ✦ The program uses a human-centred design approach to designing and updating programs and campaigns. This means, the communities wants and needs form the basis of programs and campaigns.
- ✦ WhatsApp is used to communicate between participants of their African Ambassador's program.
- ✦ Unfortunately, both in a face-to-face and digital environment, those who stand up to anti-racism are at risk of being a target of hate.
- ✦ VEOHRC have updated their system for online reporting and provide information and training sessions to communities.



Funded with VicHealth, programs such as 'Building Bridges', is funding projects within the community that empower community organisations to deliver their own programs on what to do when tackling prejudice-incidents.



'We Stand Together' is another project that looks at collaborative processes for training communities.



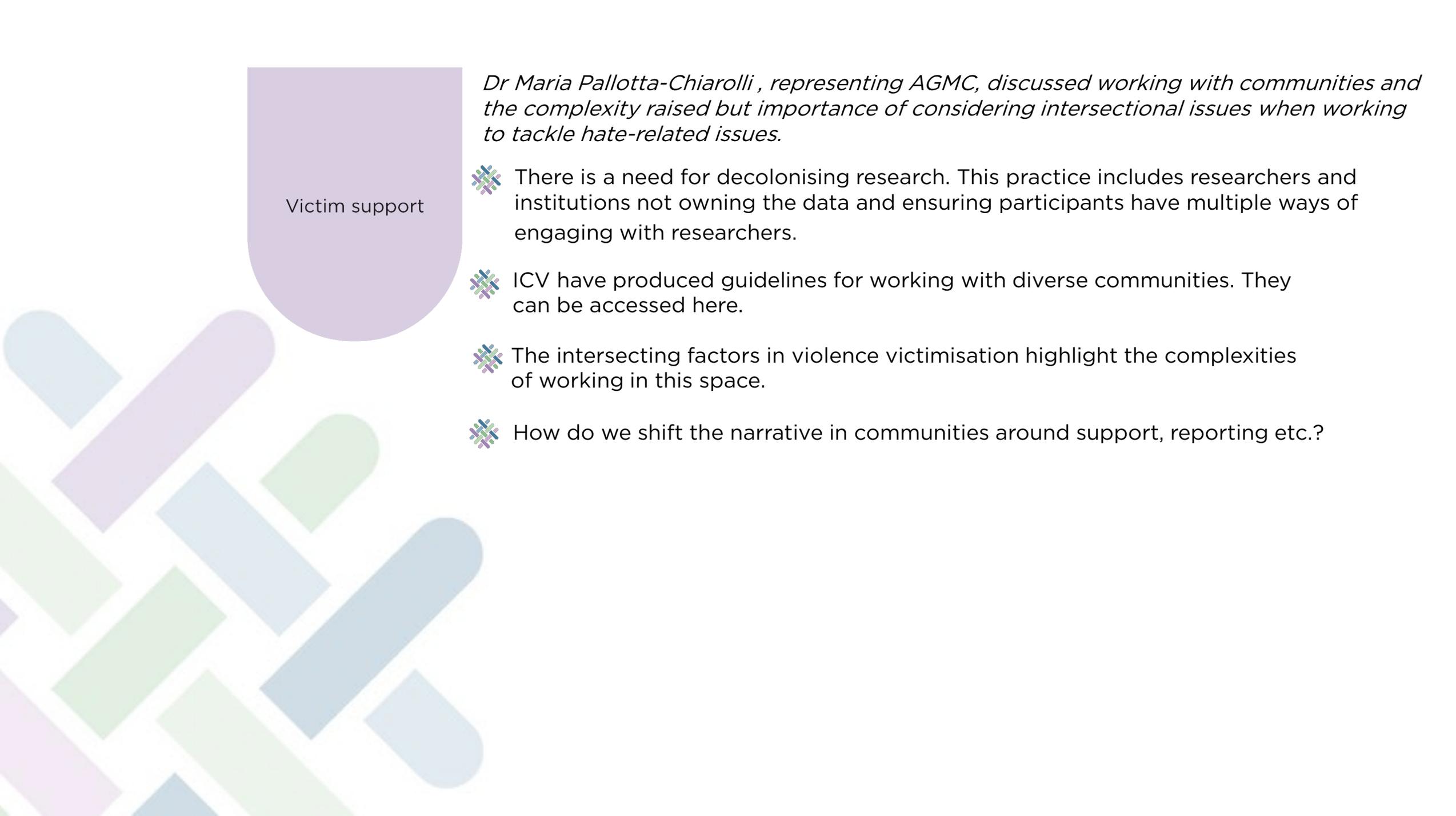
These programs and projects reiterate how important council partners are, however support and training for these councils is vital.



## Victim support

*Dr Debra Smith talks about victim-centred approaches to policy and programs.*

- ✦ For some, it's a burden to be a victim, and victims might not want to be labelled with being a 'victim'.
- ✦ What is the form of support that can be offered outside of the criminal justice system? During the criminal justice process, a victim is only a witness to the state and isn't going through their own justice process.
- ✦ Policy and programs are often reactive, rather than preventative.
- ✦ The traditional criminal justice process tends to ignore the victims need for:
  - Information: Why did this happen to me?
  - Truth-telling: Beyond being a witness.
  - Empowerment: Opportunities to take back control.
  - Restitution: Compensation and opportunities to 'put things right'.



Victim support

*Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, representing AGMC, discussed working with communities and the complexity raised but importance of considering intersectional issues when working to tackle hate-related issues.*

- ✦ There is a need for decolonising research. This practice includes researchers and institutions not owning the data and ensuring participants have multiple ways of engaging with researchers.
- ✦ ICV have produced guidelines for working with diverse communities. They can be accessed [here](#).
- ✦ The intersecting factors in violence victimisation highlight the complexities of working in this space.
- ✦ How do we shift the narrative in communities around support, reporting etc.?



The presentations prompted a group discussion on awareness raising and victim support initiatives, including:

- Viewing awareness raising as a combination of communication strategies and locally based capacity building and information sharing.
- In terms of victim support, there is a need to understand what services already exist and how they can be linked together.
- It's important to include council representatives in discussions, however also support councils to initiate conversations in their communities.
- There's a need to work with the media to address problems.
- There is an opportunity to highlight, rebrand and mobilise other programs to the community to ensure they are aware of the different avenues available to them.



The discussion led to the proposal of three sub-groups that will focus on three main areas:

Third party reporting  
and research

Awareness raising  
and victim support

Tackling Hate  
conference