**Question 1**

The Australian Census (2016) reports 43.4% of young and emerging adults (in both single parent and couple parent households) living at home (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2019), with just under 45.6% of households having 1 or more emerging adult living at home in 2021 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022). This figure has increased significantly from 36% in 1981, and is predicted to continue growing into the future (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2019). With young adults generally staying at home longer, there were two elements of the life course perspective effecting emerging and young adults through the experience of COVID-19 and the subsequent societal impacts experienced by this group in particular.

The COVID-19 restrictions from March to May of 2020 impacted young adults by forcing some to have to move back in with their parents (Evans-Whipp & Prattley, 2023). This caused a range of difficulties for this demographic and resulted in significant implications for their life course trajectory. Approximately 5% of early adults had to return to their family homes, significantly effected by uncertainty about future employment opportunities. Employment concerns were a major issue for this group, as many employers were forced to shut down and reduce their workforce during national lockdown periods. This led to financial stress, as job loss or reduced income made it challenging for them to meet their daily living expenses, including rent, bills, and groceries. For many young adults having returned to the family home for financial support, it is also plausible that their parents too had financial concerns of their own with regard to stable employment during this time, meaning that further financial difficulty was being placed on the family as a whole.

During the COVID-19 restrictions and economic turmoil, young adults have experienced a second impact on their life course, which pertains to their education and academic pursuits. This has been caused by the switch to remote learning and limitations on physically attending educational institutions (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021). Although the complete consequences of these changes are not yet comprehensively understood, it is believed that the restrictions on mobility have considerably disrupted students’ ability to meet their academic requirements, leading to delays in completing courses and adversely affecting their future earnings. It has been noted that for people in this socio-economic group, future earnings may have been reduced by as much as 10% across their future careers.

**Question 2**

Bronfenbrenner’s Bioecological model emphasises school as an important element for a recently migrated child assimilating into life in Australia. A number of factors have the potential to effect the mental and general health of a child of primary school age (Joshi & Gartoulla, 2022). The three elements of assimilation under focus here are relationships with other students and teachers, health inequities, and mental health difficulties.

Relationships outside the family can be a potential source of difficulty for newly arrived children to Australia for several reasons (Joshi & Gartoulla, 2022). Parents may not be in a position to focus on their child’s mental health as they, too, will be under pressure to meet financial and social challenges in order to find work, make friends, and find somewhere stable to live. In this scenario, the emotional needs of a child may be overlooked simply through the pace of life and the requirements of the family as a whole to have a roof over their heads and food for the table. In this scenario, it may be difficult for teachers and other supporting staff at schools to provide culturally appropriate interventions for a child.

The health inequities prevalent to migrant and refugee children new to Australia have been identified from multiple perspectives (Murray & Skull, 2005). The more immediate difficulties include financial and employment duress of parents, language barriers (effecting both child and parents) and health professionals having a generally low awareness of health specific issues as they pertain to refugee populations. The challenge in obtaining health care can be negatively impacted by a lack of employment for parents, (as well as low paying employment), while language barriers in accessing health care on behalf of children are generally effected by the lack of English language skills held by new migrants, and difficulties in accessing interpreters. Finally, health care professionals may, in some instances, be unaware of the needs specific to refugee patients, depending on their previous experiences with foreign health care providers.

**Question 3**

As with the changing demographics of families within Australia, stepfamilies now constitute 8.5% of families as per the 2021 census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022), up from 6.4% in the 2016 census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022). The Family Systems theory posits that there are multiple relational dynamics within a family unit, which are either subject to change from the onset of a relationship between a parent and step parent, but also continue to affect change on other systems within the family unit as well (Cohen & Strong, 2021). Two ways in which the parent-child relationship in this type of family is changed, is that there is now a requirement to share a parent with another adult and (in many cases) a relationship may still be maintained with the parent who is no longer living in the family home (Stepfamilies Australia, 2023b).

Firstly, the parent-child relationship alters in this type of family as the child will need to adjust to a different type of relationship with their biological parent (Stepfamilies Australia, 2023b). In a family where there are multiple children, there will be three different dynamics with the cohabiting biological parent, requiring additional communication and negotiation for each relationship. A series of complications and adjustments will need to be made on an ongoing basis from both the parent and child, as well as the parent and other children in the family unit.

Secondly, the family dynamic shifts between the child and the parent who is no longer present in the family home (Stepfamilies Australia, 2023a). Family gatherings and Christmas celebrations need to be negotiated carefully and more frequently, with patterns of communication around these events altered significantly. Patience will be required from all family members involved, but most particularly from the parent who now lives away from the larger family unit, as a relationship will still need to be maintained with the co-parent around larger events. The extended family may also need to show additional patience with each other in negotiating time to spend with each other, as all of these relationships will change considerably as well.

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