

10 September 2017



## Symposium to foster healthy and resilient local communities

The wellbeing of recently-arrived refugees will be in the spotlight at a symposium to be held at Liverpool Hospital on 4 October.

Hosted by the South Western Sydney Wellbeing Collaboration, the 'From Surviving to Thriving' symposium will provide information and workshops for health workers, community members and refugee organisations to help them support refugees after they arrive in Australia.

"The majority of refugees coming to NSW settle in our District and much of the population speaks one of more than 40 different languages at home - that's the size and complexity of the challenge we face," said Gabi Martinez, from the South Western Sydney Wellbeing Collaboration.

"We encourage grassroots organisations like schools, sports and faith groups, to come along to the symposium.

"Working closely together, we can develop strategies and provide services that help people to help themselves."

High-profile Iraqi-born orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Munjed Al Muderis, will be among the keynote speakers.

Dr Al Muderis was himself a refugee from Iraq, arriving in Australia by boat, and has since established himself as a cutting-edge orthopaedic surgeon in his new homeland.

Najeeba Wazefadost, the head of the Hazara Women's Association and Amnesty International ambassador, will also address the symposium on her experiences.

She arrived in Australia by boat in 2000 after conflict and persecution forced her family to leave Afghanistan.

The symposium will include workshops and discussions on a variety of topics, including working with young people, developing social enterprises, using digital strategies and arts projects to aid with resettlement, support for women-led households, strategies in education, and guarding against exploitation.

To purchase tickets visit <https://from-surviving-to-thriving.eventbrite.com.au>, contact Emily on 4683 6033 or email at [swwellbeingcollaboration@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:swwellbeingcollaboration@sswahs.nsw.gov.au).

Entry is \$100 per person (*Early Bird price of \$80 until 18 September*).

Scholarships are available for people from refugee backgrounds.

Gabi Martinez is available for interview on 9828 6848.