

Media Release

10 October 2017

The Refugee Nurses of Australia meets for first National Forum

South Western Sydney Local Health District will host the first Refugee Nurses of Australia (RNA) National Forum on Friday 13 October attracting refugee nurses from around Australia.

NSW Refugee Health Service Nurse Manager, Sandy Eagar said the first forum was recognition of the specialised care refugee nurses provided.

“From the first days of arrival, refugee nurses help new arrivals navigate the Australian health care system, perform holistic health assessments, give catch-up immunisations, link people to appropriate services, and help them to reclaim their futures,” she said.

“In addition nurses working in this sphere also care for people seeking asylum, some of whom are the most vulnerable groups in the community.

“Refugees and asylum seekers rely on pro bono health care to survive day-to-day. Refugee nurses are strong advocates for this group, and provide much needed resources, information and referrals.”

Ms Eagar said the RNA was established to give refugee nurses a forum to exchange information and resources as well as promoting best practice in refugee health and working to develop a national clinical practice framework.

“Refugee nurses work in a very holistic way covering a wide range of physical and mental health problems,” she said.

“Refugee nurses are usually based in the community, as opposed to working from a hospital, so the RNA will provide them with an important professional resource they can tap into at any time and the forum will give them the opportunity to meet face-to-face for the first time.”

Media is welcome to attend the forum. Refugee Nurses of Australia Chairperson Lindy Marlow will be available for interviews at 1pm.

The forum will be held at In Synergy, 157 George Street, Liverpool, and the RNA will use it to launch their official website as well as establishing a research agenda and a competency framework.