Refugee Health e-News
September 2010

Refugee health news

- **Volunteer registered nurse needed** at the Asylum Seeker Centre in Surry Hills in Sydney for 4-8 hours per week to assist the Health Care Coordinator at the Centre. See the job description on the ASC website.

- A free Clinical Evening Presentation on **Working Effectively with Refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa** is being held by STARTTS on 22 September 2019 at Carramar, Sydney. Dr Edward Nahim, the sole psychiatrist in Sierra Leone, will be presenting “Integrating Traditional Healing Practices with Psychiatry in Sierra Leone”, Dr Mohamud Sheikh, Lecturer and Researcher, UNSW, will be speaking on “The Role of Culture in Mental Health Outcomes for Sub-Saharan African Refugees: Challenges, Opportunities and Strengths” and Naome Madut, STARTTS General Services Counsellor, will be discussing “Cross-cultural Counselling: A Case Study of a Sudanese Refugee”. To register email Jacqueline Donoso or call 9794 1900.

- RCOA submission raises concerns about the health requirements for humanitarian entrants in a recent submission to the UN Human Rights Council (pg 3-4). The Refugee Council recommends that applications under the offshore component of the Refugee and Humanitarian Program be exempt from the operation of the health requirement, and that all applications for family reunion made by refugees and humanitarian entrants under the general Migration Program be eligible for a health requirement waiver.

- The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council are inviting refugee and other workers to an **Industry Consultation Forum in Wagga Wagga** on the 5th Oct to hear your views on how you can incorporate oral health care into your daily client care. Your comments will refine the proposed oral health competency units and ensure these new skills are: work appropriate; able to be implemented; and relevant to your clients. Information on the consultations being held around Australia are available on their webpage.

- **Information sessions on the NSW health system** in all refugee languages can be provided by RHS’ Bilingual Community Educators. To organise a session for your group contact Lidija Sestakova.

- The **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists** (RANZCOG) has reaffirmed their opposition to female genital mutilation and any consideration of providing “ritual nicks”. These statements follow media reports suggesting the American Paediatrics College was supporting a harm minimisation approach. The [College’s position on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting](https://www.ranzcog.edu.au) is available online, as is the resource [Female Genital Mutilation: Information for Australian Health Professionals Booklet](https://www.ranzcog.edu.au).
- **Cervical Cancer & Pap Tests booklet in Karen** has been developed as part of an awareness-raising initiative undertaken by NSW Refugee Health Service, Cancer Council NSW and The Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre. Copies are available in English and Karen.

- **PAP Screen Victoria Multilingual Resources**: Include multilingual health promotion posters about prevention of cervical cancer through regular Pap testing, pamphlets and information sheets in 34 different languages. For order forms click here.

- **Working with Refugees - A Manual for Caseworkers and Volunteers** has been developed through the Rural Clinical School - Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, Wagga Wagga Campus. The manual addresses language barriers, managing client expectations, cultural differences, living skills and burnout and many other issues. It includes a manual, CD and flash cards. For a copy contact: the Rural Clinical School 6933 5111.

- **National Cultural Competency Tool for Mental Health Services** is being launched by Multicultural Mental Health Australia. The resource pack is designed to assist mental heath service providers to improve service quality and delivery to clients of CALD backgrounds. It contains National Cultural Competency Standards and a range of practical aids and strategies, including an organisational self-assessment checklist. For more information contact Joyce Broughton.


- **Translated Contraceptive Fact Sheets** have been developed by Family Planning NSW in French and Kirundi, as well as Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Khmer, Burmese, Vietnamese, Assyrian, Korean, Turkish, Serbian, Thai, Dinka, Swahili and Laos. www.fpnsw.org.au.

### Publications & research

Links to abstracts are provided where full texts are not available for free.


### Training & professional development

- **14-17 September 2010**: *Mental Health Services Conference*, Sydney. There will be a transcultural mental health stream. For more information visit [www.themhs.org](http://www.themhs.org).

- **17 September 2010**: *War's long shadow: The impact of war and organised violence on new mothers and midwives*, presentation by Peter King, RHS Nurse. Held at the Australian *College of Midwives* NSW Conference "Midwifery: Providing a Safe Harbour, Kiama. Register on-line.*

- **17 September 2010**: *Jungle Tracks Workshop: A Therapeutic Storytelling Program for Children and Adolescents*, Carramar. This program includes five short stories that mirror real life struggles related to the lives of children, adolescents and parents with a background of refugee trauma ($200). *Includes Jungle Tracks kit with 5 story books.* To register visit [www.startts.org.au](http://www.startts.org.au) or telephone (02) 9794 1900.

- **21 September 2010**: Reaching Out for Rights, a 1-day legal issues workshop for community and health workers who are working with newly arrived refugee communities, Auburn, Sydney. Held by Women's Legal Services NSW and IARC. The workshop will cover legal options for protection from family violence, reporting violence and assisting victims of violence negotiate the justice system. Free. Bookings are essential, contact Felicity Martin 8745 6900.

- **26 September 2010**: *Social determinants of Health, Millennium Development Goals, maternal mortality and reproductive health in the Asia Pacific: What could Australia be doing better?* Workshop, Adelaide. Presented by the PHAA's Women's Health/Political Economy of Health/Primary Health Care/International Health Special interest Groups. [Click here for more information.](#)

- **27-30 September 2010**: *Health Issues & Humanitarian Emergencies* 4-day Short Course at the Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney. Designed to give participants an insight into the range of public health aspects of humanitarian emergencies in developing country situations. For more information: enquiries@health.usyd.edu.au.


- **18-20 October 2010**: 2010 Australasian *Sexual Health Conference*, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney. A symposium is dedicated to the sexual health of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and people from CALD backgrounds is on the Monday. Speakers include Dr Jill Benson (Migrant Health Service, SA), Sandy
Gifford (La Trobe Refugee Research Centre) and Henrike Korner (Aust. Centre for HIV Social Research, UNSW).

- **1-4 November 2010**: *Health Issues & Humanitarian Emergencies* 4-day Short Course at the Sydney School of Public Health, UNSW. For more information: enquiries@health.usyd.edu.au.


Refugee Health e-News is produced bi-monthly. If you have a refugee health-related item for the next Refugee Health E-news please contact: Cathy Preston-Thomas, (02) 8778 0770, Cathy.Preston-Thomas@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

NSW Refugee Health Service  
PO Box 144, Liverpool BC, NSW 1871 * Suite 5, Level 2, 157-161 George St, Liverpool  
Ph: 8778 0770  Fax: 8778 0790  refugeehealth@sswahs.nsw.gov.au  
www.refugeehealth.org.au