Refugee Health e-News
February 2011

Refugee health news

• Our Auburn GP clinic has moved with the Auburn Community Health Centre to Auburn Hospital, Norval St, Auburn. To refer a client or make a booking, please contact us on 8778 0770, Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm or fax a completed referral form to 8778 0790. The patient will be contacted to confirm the appointment date. Auburn clinics are held each Monday. A Guide for Referrers and a guide for Asylum Seeker Agencies and Supporters is available on our website.

• Nutrition classes in Somali (women only), Iraqi Arabic, and Karen are being run by the NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS). If you have any clients who live in the Fairfield area and would be interested in joining a group, please contact Joanna Coutts on 8878 0770. Details of the program are also available on our website.

• RHS has updated some of our factsheets:
  - Refugees in NSW: An Overview
  - Asylum Seekers and Health in Australia
  - Refugees from Africa
  - Guidelines for Working with Interpreters: for counselling and health care staff working with refugees

• Diversit-e’s March 2011 issue will focus on the health of immigrant and refugee children in Australia. If you would like to contribute, please contact the editor of Diversit-e, Monique Wakefield.

• A policy working group exploring employment of refugees in health services is being established by the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association. For more information contact Cydde Miller at AHHA.

• The newly released NSW Cancer Plan 2011-15 sets the commendable goal of providing greater access to best practice treatment for CALD communities, including: improving data collection; developing partnerships with CALD communities; investigating trends in the incidence of cancers in new and emerging communities; developing appropriate cancer information and social marketing campaigns; and improving cultural competency of cancer health professionals.

New resources

• HPA Migrant Health Guide (UK) is a website to support GPs and nurses in assessing and treating migrant and refugee patients. It has a range of useful information including a checklist to help practitioners assess new patient's likely health needs by reference to the country of origin. Over 100 countries are profiled in the Migrant Health Guide. Topic pages on each infectious disease are included to guide practitioners in diagnosis and management according to UK guidelines. Other topics include children's health, nutritional/metabolic concerns, women's health, immunisation; and migrant health epidemiology.
Multicultural Mental Health Australia’s **Hear Our Voice: Cultural Perspectives on Mental Health Care DVD** aims to help mental health services, consumers and carers understand how culture can impact on perceptions of mental illness and recovery, and encourage their participation in mental health advisory groups. For more information email admin@mmha.org.au.


**An annotated bibliography of rights-based approaches to mental health work with refugees** has been developed by Wellington Refugees as Survivors Trust. It provides summaries of resources that inform and/or explain the increasing shift from welfare-based models of mental health care towards rights-based models. See the directory of Aotearoa New Zealand refugee-related research.

**Diversity Health Institute’s** **Diversit-e e-magazine** focuses on chronic and complex illness including: diabetes prevention for immigrant and refugee women; coronary heart disease, acculturation and mental health; Queensland’s culturally appropriate chronic disease program; and medication adherence.


**Download refugee health topics for free on YouTube.** Extracts from the NSW Refugee Health Improvement Network’s **Health Check DVD: Health information for recently arrived African communities in Australia** are now available on the following topics in the following languages (click on the language to go to YouTube link):

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tr>
<td>Checking your health after arrival in Australia</td>
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<td>Liberian Pidgin</td>
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<td>What to do in a health emergency</td>
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<td>Liberian Pidgin</td>
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<td>Bulk billing information</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Using a Medicare card</td>
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<td>Health &amp; hygiene</td>
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<td>Immunisation information</td>
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<td>Making appointments with</td>
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<td>Liberian Pidgin</td>
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Please help us to forward this to relevant others. The information is relevant across Australia.

For your diary

- March 8 - UN Day for Women’s Rights & International Peace
- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- April 7 – World Health Day
- April 7 – International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda
- June 19-25 - Refugee Week
- June 20 - World Refugee Day
- June 26 - International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- October 2 - International Day of Non-Violence
- December 10 – Human Rights Day.

2011 is the year of International Year for People of African Descent.

Publications & research

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

- Primary Health Care Research Information Service (2010): Meeting the primary health care needs of refugees and asylum seekers, PHCRIS Research Roundup, 16 (December 2010).

Training & professional development

• 11 March 2011: Core Concepts in Working with Children and Adolescents from Refugee Backgrounds, 1-day workshop, STARTTS. $149/99. For more details see www.startts.org.au or call (02) 9794 1900.

• 24 March 2011: Core Concepts in Working with People from Refugee Backgrounds, 1-day workshop, STARTTS. $149/99. For more details see www.startts.org.au or call (02) 9794 1900.

• 4-5 April 2011: Violence against Women in Refugee Communities, Parramatta. 2-day workshop presented by the NSW Refugee Health Service and ECAV. For more details or to register, contact ECAV 9840-3737.

• 7-8 April 2011: Clinical Practice and New Developments in the Treatment of Refugee Survivors of Torture and Trauma, STARTTS 2-day workshop. $249/149. For more details see www.startts.org.au or call (02) 9794 1900.

• 6 May 2011: Accidental counsellor: Skills for Working with Refugee Survivors or Torture and Trauma, 1-day workshop, STARTTS. $149/99. For more details see www.startts.org.au or call (02) 9794 1900.


• 1-3 June 2011: Canadian Refugee Health Conference, Toronto Canada.

• 14–17 June 2011: Refugee Conference: Looking to the future, learning from the past, UNSW Kensington campus, Sydney. Convened by the UNSW Centre for Refugee Research, together with key refugee advocates and practitioners. Preliminary program information and early bird registration is now available on the conference website.

• 1-2 Aug 2011: Violence against Women in Refugee Communities, Parramatta. 2-day workshop presented by the NSW Refugee Health Service and ECAV. For more details or to register, contact ECAV 9840-3737.


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