Refugee health news

- **Information session on women's health for Sudanese Arabic and Dinka speaking women** will be held on 19th January 2012 from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. at the Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre. For more information contact RHS’ Refugee Women’s Health Project Officer B-Ann Echevarria on 8778 0779 or BAnn.Echevarria@sswhs.nsw.gov.au


- **New interpreters project**: The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) is administering a national project, namely the New Interpreters Project, funded by the Australian Government. The Project aims to increase the number of NAATI interpreters around Australia. The Project will target areas to increase the number of interpreters in new/emerging languages, rarer languages and languages for which there are shortages in rural and regional areas. Applications for the New Interpreters Project must be received by the 20 January 2012 to be considered for the workshop. Visit www.naati.com.au for further details.

- **Schools First Impact Award – NSW Winner- Partnership Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre and Multicultural Health Service South Eastern Sydney Local Health District**: The project “Optimising health and learning for refugee and other vulnerable newly arrived students” won one of 17 NSW Local Impact Awards and the NSW Impact as part of the NAB Schools First, a national awards program that recognises and rewards outstanding school community partnership. For more information about the project contact Lisa Woodland, Program Manager, Multicultural Health Service, 9382 3346, Lisa.Woodland@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

- **The NSW Refugee Health Service’s Community Education Program** provides information sessions to newly arrived refugees on NSW Health Care System and oral health. To invite a Bilingual Community Educator (BCE) to run an information session for your group on the NSW Public Health System or oral health please contact the BCE Coordinator Lidija Sestakova, Lidija.Sestakova@sswhs.nsw.gov.au, 8778 0770.

- **Carers NSW to deliver new Better Start initiative**: This program will assist carers and families of children with developmental disabilities to access funding for early intervention services such as speech pathology, audiology and psychology. Eligible children will be able to be registered to access early intervention funding of
Parents and carers can register their child for the initiative via free call 1800 242 636 or FAHCSIA website: www.fahcsia.gov.au/betterstart

- **Medicare Locals**: Eighteen Medicare Locals will be established from 1 January 2012, with the remaining 25 to commence from 1 July 2012. Medicare Locals will maintain and build on the work already done by the local Divisions of General Practice, with GPs and general practice being at the centre of a strong, integrated primary health care system. Once all the new Medicare Locals are established there will be a network of 62 nationally to ensure that patients receive locally responsive primary health care. For more information click here.

**New resources**

- **Learning module on refugees for main stream health service providers**: An on-line refugee module is available internally on the intranet of the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWS LHD) at http://intranet-build.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/Cewd/e-learning_review.cfm (accessible by SWS & SLHD employees only)

- **Multilingual Emergency Services Posters**: people from refugee backgrounds who have recently arrived in Australia may not know that Triple Zero is the number to call for emergency help from the police, fire and ambulance. The Australian Communication and Media Authority has produced A3 posters in 33 languages, including Karen, Somali, Dinka, Tamil and Dari, promoting the service and providing basic information for display in your organisation. To see the range of languages and download the posters click here

- **Clinical Ethics Resource for health professionals**: NSW Health, the Sydney Medical School and Sydney Law School have recently launched a web-based Clinical Ethics Resource for health professionals. The Clinical Ethics Resource provides an extensive range of resources addressing the ethical and legal issues experienced by those working in clinical environments. Health professionals face challenging issues on a daily basis. This website seeks to offer resources and best practice guidelines to assist with those decisions. To view the section on "refugee and detainees" click here

- **Monash University post-graduate studies in refugee health & wellbeing for nurses**: commencing in semester one of 2012. The unit may be taken as part of a Master of Nursing (Refugee Health) or Master of Clinical Midwifery, as part of a Graduate Certificate or Diploma of Nursing (Refugee Health) or as a stand-alone unit. This unit and stream have been developed in partnership with the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and the State-wide Refugee Health Nurse facilitator, sponsored by the Victorian Department of Health. For the unit outline click here.

- **MyLanguage - resources in community languages online**: The new portal provides links to multilingual search engines, web directories, government websites, online dictionaries, and syndicated news headlines. It also contains translations of online government and community information relating to health, legal issues, settlement, education and public libraries along with information on multilingual library collections around Australia. Go to www.mylanguage.gov.au

- **Enhancing the lives of Older Refugees - a self improvement Resource for Community Service Providers** to raise awareness, provide guidance, information and resources for aged care workers when working with older people from a refugee or refugee-like background. The Resource will be launched on the 22nd of
February at Cabra Vale Leisure Centre, Broomfield Street, Cabramatta. For more information contact Yvonne Santalucia at Yvonne.santalucia@swsahs.nsw.gov.au.

Publications & research

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

- HSS review released: The Federal Government has released the Review of Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) Performance Measures and Contract Management. The Government accepted all the recommendations from the report by David Richmond AO into the adequacy of the performance measures and framework, as well as the Immigration Department’s contract management processes.


- Fiona Mckay, Samantha Thomas and Susan Kneebone ‘It Would be Okay If They Came through the Proper Channels’: Community Perceptions and Attitudes toward Asylum Seekers in Australia. The study included community surveys to understand community perceptions and attitudes relating to asylum seekers. Access the report.


- Dr I-Hao Cheng, Prof Grant Russell, Dr Marion Bailes and Dr Andrew Block. An evaluation of the primary health care needs of refugees in South East Metropolitan Melbourne. (May 2011)


  - Report of the Karen Settlement/Community Workers Forum (October 2011). Can be requested from RHS’ Refugee Women’s Health Project Officer B-Ann Echevarria on 8778 0779 or BAnn.Echevarria@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Training & professional development

- 10 February 2012: International Conference “A Long Way from Home? The Rural and Regional Resettlement Experiences of Visible Migrants and Refugees”. The University of Melbourne. For further information click here and to register click here.

- 22 February 2012: Auburn Community Development Conference: The Power of participation building on aspirations and strengths of communities. For more information contact Chau Nguyen on 9735 1288, or chau.nguyen@auburn.nsw.gov.au.
• **23 February 2012**: Core Concepts in Working with People from Refugee Backgrounds STARTTS 1-day workshop. $149/99. For more details see [www.startts.org.au](http://www.startts.org.au) or call (02) 9794 1900.

• **23-24 February 2012**: The MHS conference-Summer Forum- Confronting Self-Harm: from understanding to responding. Aerial UTS Function Centre, Sydney. For more information access [http://www.themhs.org/summer-forum/2012-summer-forum-/sf12-program](http://www.themhs.org/summer-forum/2012-summer-forum-/sf12-program)

• **9 March 2012**: 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](http://www.startts.org.au) or call (02) 9794 1900.

• **28-29 March 2012**: two-day seminar with Dr John Briere based on his new book "Treating Complex Trauma in Adolescents and Young Adults" ([read more](#)). For more details see [www.startts.org.au](http://www.startts.org.au) or call (02) 9794 1900.

• The **STARTTS Training Program 2012** booklet is now available to download. You can check out all of our Professional Development Workshops and Clinical Seminars on the [training page](#) of STARTTS' website.

• **26-27 March 2012**: 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.

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**HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON**

NSW Refugee Health Service wishes you all a Happy Festive Season and a Prosperous 2012!

We look forward to working with you again in 2012.

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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: [refugeehealth@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:refugeehealth@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

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