The new NSW Health Policy and Implementation Plan for Healthy Culturally Diverse Communities, 2012-2016 was launched on 26 April 2012. The Plan includes strategic directions to improve the health status of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups including women, emerging communities, refugees and people living with a disability. Copies of the document can be downloaded from the website: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

Homestay network supporting asylum seekers

The Australian Homestay Network’s (AHN) program which is set up to provide short-term accommodation support for asylum seekers, generated more than 1000 enquiries in the first five days of May from people willing to sign up. Anyone willing to host an asylum seeker in their home for a six-week period can register with the AHN at [www.homestaynetwork.org/cpn](http://www.homestaynetwork.org/cpn) or by calling 1300 697 829. The AHN will provide all approved hosts with information, training, homestay industry appropriate insurance and support services throughout their involvement with the Community Placement Network Project.

Changes to immigration health undertakings arrangements: The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has released its new Health Undertakings Fact Sheet. Please see attached fact sheet.

Health warning to avoid Burmese traditional powders

Last month the NSW Refugee Health Service received reports from the United States about lead poisoning in Burmese refugee communities related to traditional remedies given to infants and children for strength and digestion, and possibly to the use of thanaka face cream. In response, RHS staff identified grocery shops in Sydney that sold these products and obtained samples for testing. NSW Health, NSW Food Authority and the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission have taken action to withdraw products from sale and educate communities after some samples were found to contain high levels of arsenic. For further information please view the media release.

Update on referral procedure for the HARK: Health Assessment for Refugee Kids

Westmead Children's Hospital, Sydney runs a health assessment, screening and referral service for refugee and asylum seeking children between the ages of 0-16 years. If you have a child that may require health screening, you can either email your referral to Alanna Maycock at: alannamaycock@gmail.com, or fax it to: (02) 9845 3291. For a copy of the referral form and for further details please view the [FLYER](#).
Request for voluntary input into national refugee primary health care research project: Researchers from Monash University, UNSW, UQ, the University of Melbourne and the University of Ottawa have been commissioned to develop a framework for the coordinated delivery of primary healthcare services to refugee consumers in Australia. The researchers would like to invite interested parties to share any literature (documents, websites, publications) relating to departments, programs or services relevant to this field. For more information visit click here or contact I-Hao Cheng i-hao.cheng@monash.edu or Mark Harris m.f.harris@unsw.edu.au

New resources

‘Asylum Explained’ website has been launched by Asylum Seekers Resource Centre in Melbourne. This website provides a comprehensive guide to the legal process of seeking asylum in Australia - with easy to understand factsheets, information on each step in the process and contacts:
www.asylumexplained.asrc.org.au

DIAC Fact Sheet 61a- Complementary Protection: From 24 March 2012, there is a new additional basis for the grant of a Protection visa. The assessment of whether a person is owed protection by Australia will include an assessment of the claims under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (the Refugees Convention) and an assessment of their complementary protection claims. Both assessments will be part of the processing of a person’s application for a Protection visa. To view the fact sheet press here.

Settlement services locator
The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has updated the web-based settlement services locator to include contact details for all Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) in addition to contact details for Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and Settlement Grants Program (SGP) providers. Access the settlement services locator at: www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/find-help/where-to-help/. DIAC has also published a HSS Providers booklet: www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/find-help/hss/

Multicultural Gamblers Help Program have developed a resource in Karen “Taking the first step together: gambler's help in your community” which uses culturally appropriate characters and scenarios to explore pathways into gambling, the impact of problem gambling, responsible gambling practices, and options for seeking help. All chapters can be viewed by clicking here ceh.org.au/mghp/problem_gambling_resources/dvdgamblershelp.aspx, further multilingual resources on problem gambling can be found at this link ceh.org.au/mghp/problem_gambling_resources.aspx

Multicultural Women’s Health Australia’s (MWHA) new website: The program provides national leadership in immigrant and refugee women’s health, operating across Australia to improve the capacity of immigrant and refugee women to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. Their new national website http://www.mcwh.com.au/mwha/mwha.php has just been launched which makes available an online catalogue of over 5,500 quality multilingual resources in over 40 languages.

Medicare Locals: The remaining 25 Medicare Locals will commence from 1 July 2012. General Practice NSW put the fact sheet which provides advice to external groups on the best possible way to work with NSW Medicare Locals: Understanding and Working with NSW Medicare Locals
Publications & research


Training & professional development

- **24 May 2012**: Down There: a workshop to help service providers talk about reproductive and sexual health with CALD and refugee communities, Family Planning, 328-336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield, ½ day training. For more information & registration visit Family Planning NSW.

- **25 May 2012**: 7th Australian Women’s Health Conference-NSW Stakeholders Forum Details, YWCA Meeting Rooms, Corner Wentworth and Oxford Streets, Sydney. For further information contact Denele Crozier on 9560 0866 or denele@whnsw.asn.au

- **1 June 2012**: Core Concepts in Working with Survivors of Torture and Trauma. To register, visit the STARTTS website. For more information on STARTTS’ Training Program 2012 click here.

- **8 June 2012**: The Refugee Health Network of Australia (RHeaNA), annual meeting, members only, The Foundation House, Melbourne, VIC.

- **19-21 June 2012**: 13th National Immunisation Conference, Darwin Convention Centre, NT.

- **21 June 2012**: Australia’s Health 2012 Conference, Canberra, CT.

- **18-20 July 2012**: Primary Health Care Research Conference, National Convention Centre, Canberra, CT.
Refugee Week update:
If you have finalised Refugee Week events, register them on the Refugee Week website at http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/events/register.php. Formal launches for Refugee Week will be held in Sydney on Saturday, 16 June and in Melbourne on Monday, 18 June. Visit the Refugee Week website for more details: http://www.refugeeweek.org.au

If you have a refugee health-related item for the next Refugee Health E-news please contact: NSW Refugee Health Service (02) 8778 0770 or refugeehealth@sswhs.nsw.gov.au

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