Winter is coming: the *Keep them Warm Campaign* is collecting donations of new and pre-loved winter clothes and blankets for newly arrived refugees who are assisted by the NSW Refugee Health Service’s Clinics in Metropolitan Sydney. The Campaign is an initiative of the Refugee Women’s Health Network. Contact [Bann Echevarria](mailto:bann.echevarria@nsw.gov.au) for details of the Network and the Campaign.

**National Forum on Children and Young People from Refugee Backgrounds** is being held on 15-16 July at the University of Sydney Law School. Day 1 will have a focus on research. The Symposium on Day 2 - *Young People from Refugee Backgrounds: Exploring policy and practice in the Australian context* – includes a health stream on: (1) access to and service utilisation of mental health services; (2) young people, trauma and detention; and (3) innovative health programs in schools. Speakers include paediatrician Dr Georgia Paxton and [Prof Louise Newman](mailto:prof.louise.newman@unsw.edu.au). Auspiced by the MYAN (Australia) with partners including the NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS).

**The official launch of the NSW Refugee Health Nurse Program** will be held during this year’s Refugee Week. The event will present some of the outcomes of the program and officially open our new premises on Level 3, 157 George St, Liverpool. Contact us for more details. Refugee Week starts on Sunday 15th June. See the [Refugee Week website](http://www.refugeeweek.nsw.gov.au) for more activities in your area.

**South Eastern Sydney Local Health District has launched their Refugee Health Plan:** South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Implementation Plan for the NSW Refugee Health Plan 2011-16. For more details contact [Astrid Perry](mailto:astrid.perry@health.nsw.gov.au).

**Our nurses are presenting at the International Council of Nurses’ 25th Quadrennial Congress.** The symposium, ‘Protecting and Promoting the Health of Refugees in NSW’, will include break-out groups on maternal health, infectious diseases, rural and regional issues and mental health. Conference details are available on the website [25th Quadrennial Congress](http://www.icn.org/), 18-23 May, Melbourne.

**Health committee considers creation of a national centre for disease control:** The House of Representatives Health Committee has recommended that the Australian Government assess the need for a national centre for infectious disease control. The committee’s report, ‘*Diseases have no borders: Report on the inquiry into health issues across international borders*’ includes 15 recommendations aimed at helping Australia prepare for future infectious disease threats of global concern.

**New Identification cards for asylum seekers** have been introduced by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The [Evidence of Immigration Status (EIS) ImmiCard](http://www.immi.gov.au) are given to people with a subclass 050 Bridging Visa E when they leave detention. Arguably they constitute ‘a receipt or letter from the Department of
Immigration’ and therefore can be used as evidence of asylum seeker status and eligibility for health services under NSW Health’s Asylum Seeker Policy.

The health care of people in Community Detention is funded by DIAC through a contract with the International Health and Medical Service (IHMS). These clients may have an IHMS card:

International Health and Medical Services will be briefing the Refugee Health Improvement Network on health services in community detention at their meeting on 4th June. To RSVP contact the Convener at NSW Refugee Health Service.

A useful presentation on community detention is available online to assist health services to understand arrangements in place for people in community detention. Topics include: health services on Christmas Island and detention facilities; health orientation and health supports for people in Community Detention; and organisations that support people in Community Detention. Developed by the Victorian Refugee Health Network (VRHN), it is also relevant to NSW.

New resources

Seasonal Flu Materials for Refugees factsheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US) are available in Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Dzongkha, English, Farsi, Karen, Kirundi, Nepali, Oromo, Somali, and Spanish.

The updated Australian Immunisation Handbook (10th edition) is now available. Clinical recommendations for health practitioners incorporate the latest available evidence-based practices. Part 4.5 highlights the prevalence of Hepatitis B in migrant populations: it recommends all overseas-born people be screened for HBV using three tests (sAg (infection), sAb (immunity), cAb (to determine whether the immunity is from virus or vaccine).

Refugee Health Network of Australia (RHeaNA) has a website: www.refugeehealthaustralia.org. This site describes the work of RHeaNA, a national network of health and community professionals from every Australian State and Territory who share an interest and/or expertise in refugee health.

Working with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds with caring responsibilities, is the latest Good Practice Guide from the Centre for Multicultural Youth: the guidelines.
A free online Course in Immigrant and Refugee Health is available from Global Health Medicine, University of Minnesota. This 7-hour, lecture-based introductory course includes lectures from global health experts. Follow the links from the ‘Practicing Health Care Providers’ section at on their website.

A Discussion paper on domestic violence that identifies ways to improve responses to family violence and recommendations to improve the settlement sector’s responses has been produced by the Settlement Council of Australia.

Translated material on Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C (English, Vietnamese and Arabic) DVD’s are now available on the Liverpool hospital YouTube site.

An evaluation of Tasmania’s Refugee Health Project has been released. For a copy of the full evaluation report please email: leanne.hennessy@dhhs.tas.gov.au at the Population Health Equity Unit, 2/25 Argyle Street, Hobart.

Background information about Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been compiled by the Cultural Orientation Resource Center (US) on the causes of the refugee crisis, life in the DRC and countries of asylum, and Congolese resettlement experiences.

Improving the health care of women and girls affected by female genital mutilation/cutting: A Service Coordination Guide, provides detailed information on FGM/C, where and why it is practised, its legal status in Australia, and referral services. It was developed by Family Planning Victoria.

On the same topic, a copy of Minister Plibersek’s speech at the National Summit on Female Genital Mutilation National Summit on FGM on the 7th of April is now available.

Publications & research

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


• Smith Y, Cornella E, & Williams N (2013) Working with populations from a refugee background: An opportunity to enhance the occupational therapy educational experience *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 60 (2) article in press.


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**Training & professional development**

- **15 May 2013**: Adapting Western Therapeutic Models to Work with Non-Western Cultures (clinical evening) 6-8pm. Free to attend in person, $5.99 to watch live webcast. STARTTS Carramar. See [STARTTS’ website](#) for details.

- **17 May 2013**: Providing culturally appropriate care for women, girls and families affected by Female Genital Mutilation training, organised by NSW Education Program on FGM, 1-day workshop, St Marys. For more information contact Shairon Fray on 8838 2007 or email Denise.Maguire@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au.

- **17 May 2013**: Jungle Tracks: A Therapeutic Storytelling Program for Children and Adolescents (workshop). 9.30am-4.30pm. $199, $149 for students (Kit included). STARTTS Carramar. See [STARTTS’ website](#) for details.


- **4 June 2013**: Refugee Health Improvement Network meeting held at Anglicare, Parramatta. For more information contact the [Convenor](#) at NSW Refugee Health Service on 8778 0770.

- **12 June 2013**: Impact of Trauma on the Developing Brain (clinical evening) 6-8pm. Free to attend in person, $5.99 to watch live broadcast. STARTTS Carramar.

- **15-21 June, 2013**: Refugee Week. See the [website](#) for activities near you.

- **6-8 June 2013**: North American Refugee Health Conference: *Health Means the World to Us*, presented by University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine. Toronto, Canada.

- **27-28 June 2013**: Global Conference on the Right to Rehabilitation for Torture Victims, hosted jointly by the IRCT and Restart, Beirut, Lebanon. For the detailed programme please [click here](#).

- **10-12 July 2013**: Primary Health Care Research Conference – Allies for better primary health care. Sydney, NSW.
• **19 July 2013**: Community Development with Refugee Communities, 1-day workshop, $149, $99 for students, STARTTS Carramar. See [STARTTS’ website](#) for details.

• **23 July 2013**: Narrative Approaches to Dealing with Collective Consequences of Trauma, community development evening, 6-8pm, STARTTS Carramar. Free to attend in person, $5.99 to watch the live broadcast. See [STARTTS’ website](#) for details.

• **24-25 July 2013**: Violence against women in refugee communities, 2-day workshop. Parramatta, Sydney. See [Education Centre Against Violence’s website](#) for more details.


If you have a health-related refugee item for the next Refugee Health E-news please contact: NSW Refugee Health Service (02) 8778 0770 or [Cathy.Preston-Thomas@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Cathy.Preston-Thomas@sswahs.nsw.gov.au).