**NSW Refugee Health Service wins award for the best multilingual DVD resource** produced by a government-funded agency in NSW over the past two years. NSW Multicultural Health Communications Service recognised the *Something to Smile About* DVD, a 15 minute DVD about oral health for refugees produced in 8 languages. We thank Multicultural Health WSLHD, and our primary partners in the project, SWS Oral Health Service and the Centre for Oral Health for their support.

**Project Officer position available:** we are looking for a suitably qualified person to join the team (up to 12 months). Responsibilities include project management, training, research and policy. See the [WSLHD website](http://www.wslhd.nsw.gov.au) for details.

**Fairfield Refugee Nutrition Project launches the Fairfield Traditional Foods Directory:** The Directory maps businesses in Fairfield that stock foods commonly eaten by 10 different community groups, to make it easier for people from a refugee background to locate the foods they have always eaten. The Fairfield Refugee Nutrition Project is an activity of the Fairfield Communities for Children and delivered by The NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS).

**Immunisation Policy for Migrants, Refugees and Travellers - Stakeholder Workshop - 9 August, UNSW:** The Centre for Research Excellence in Population Health "Immunisation in under Studied and Special Risk Populations: Closing the Gap in Knowledge through a Multidisciplinary Approach" is dedicated to identifying and addressing research gaps with important immunisation policy implications for high risk and/or marginalised populations. **Registration required.**

**Family Planning NSW Conference 2013, themed Embracing Diversity:** RHS will present on both days on Communication skills: working with interpreters and refugee patients (Workshop, day 1) and Case studies in reproductive and sexual health in those of refugee background (day 2). 30 & 31 August 2013, at the University of Technology.

**Report on Promoting the engagement of interpreters in Victoria Health Services**, by Foundation House: The report examines the barriers and facilitators to the engagement of credentialed interpreters by health services and practitioners, and makes a number of recommendations on key issues of concern.

**Presentation on health services in detention:** International Health and Medical Services will be briefing the Refugee Health Improvement Network on health services in immigration detention centres at their meeting on 6th August. To RSVP contact the **Convenor** at NSW Refugee Health Service.

**Information from the recent North American Refugee Health Conference** is now available online, including information provided by NSW RHS.
New resources

**Easidose**, a free web-based prescribing aid for patients with low literacy: this practical resource uses colour-coding for medications, and picture-based instructions for dose, frequency, duration and special conditions (e.g. with/without food). All you need is some coloured textas!

**DIAC’s Getting settled: Women refugee in Australia** report documents good practice for working with refugee women. In relation to health care it notes successful approaches include: • women to be escorted to their first health or wellbeing appointment by a female • the use of accredited female interpreters • appointments scheduled with gender-sensitive services and female doctors, nurses and other health professionals, in an environment where women feel safe to address personal issues • women and family members provided with access to torture and trauma counselling • HSS providers deliver mandatory mental health and cultural awareness training to staff and volunteers to ensure they are sensitive to the clients’ needs.

**Translated brochures on mediation to treat mental health disorders and illnesses** are available online from the Transcultural Mental Health Service. Topics and medications include: antipsychotic medications; benzodiazepines; bipolar disorder; Clozapine; and depression.

**Kids Helpline information sheet on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:** The information sheet outlines issues affecting children and young people who have arrived as refugees. Available online.

A report on **Health care for asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island** has been published by Rebecca de Boer through the Parliamentary Library (28 June 2013). As noted by the VIRHN, page 2 has a statement about Medicare eligibility which may be misleading.

**Launch of language-specific webpages on Incontinence** for clients and health professionals. See the Continence Foundation of Australia. Also available: Guidelines for health professionals - working with an interpreter in a continence assessment and Guidelines for interpreters - what to expect in a continence assessment.

**Analysis of long-term immigration detention:** Humanitarian Research Partners has published an analysis of the Commonwealth Ombudsman’s review of asylum seekers held in long-term immigration detention. The analysis found that of the 2012 reviews, 80% of asylum seekers reviewed suffered from mental health problems. The analysis is available at: [http://bit.ly/10X0FyS](http://bit.ly/10X0FyS)

**The 5th edition of the resettlement of refugees in Australia: a bibliography** by Klaus Neumann is available on Australian Policy Online. It lists 78 pages of resources on resettlement of refugees, including their health care.

**Updated MBS Flipchart:** the ‘Summary of new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers: general practice and allied health’, was produced by the Victorian Department of Health, but it is still relevant to providers in NSW. Refugee Health Items of interest:

- Health Care Card Holder Items (10900, 10901, 10992)
- MBS (Refugee) Health Assessment Items (701, 703, 705)
- GP Management Plan (721)
- Coordination of Team Care Arrangement Item (723)
- Contributing to multidisciplinary care plan Item (729)
- Review of GP Management Plan/Coordination of a Review of Team Care Arrangements (732)
- Multidisciplinary Care Conference by Medical Practitioners (other than a specialist consult physician) Items (735, 739)
- Case Conference by Consultant Physician Items (820, 822, 823, 825, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 835, 837, 838)
- Domiciliary medication management review (known as Home Medicines Review) Item (900, 903).

**Publications & research**

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


Training & professional development

• 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.

• 15-16 August 2013: Healing the Body, Healing the Mind: Sensorimotor Psychotherapy in Treating Complex Trauma, Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney. See STARTTS’ website.

• 30-31 August 2013: Family Planning NSW Conference, Embracing Diversity University of Technology, Sydney.

• 16-18 September 2013: Public Health Association of Australia’s Conference ‘A Fair Go for Health: Tackling physical, social and psychological inequalities’: Melbourne.

• 15-16 Oct 2013: Violence against Women in Refugee Communities, 2-day workshop. North Sydney. See Education Centre Against Violence’s website for more details.


• 7-8 November 2013: Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia Conference, Gold Coast. Areas of interest include refugee settlement. See www.tecco2013.com.

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 Cathy.Preston-Thomas@sswhs.nsw.gov.au.