Innovations in Refugee Health 2014: This Refugee Week, join us to celebrate some of the innovative projects, policy, and research in refugee health, and acknowledge the contribution of health professionals and services to the physical health of refugees in NSW. A full program will be available from our website. Wednesday 18th June, Lachlan’s, Old Government House, Parramatta Park. This and other Refugee Week events will be posted on the Refugee Week website.

TIS for private Allied Health workers: Inner West Sydney Medicare Local is providing free interpreter services through TIS National to private Allied Healthcare Providers in their region (which equates to Sydney LHD) until 30 June 2014. Continuation is dependent on funding availability and uptake of the program by local Allied Health Providers. To register contact IWSML.

NSW’s Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer is meeting NSW Refugee Health Nurses at the annual Refugee Health Nurse Forum in July. The Forum is an opportunity for refugee nurses from across NSW to share ideas and expertise. Contact RHS for more details.

New independent multicultural youth organisation has been established by Settlement Services International to focus on the needs of youth from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW. See their media release for details.

Proceedings of Australia’s first national stakeholder workshop on immunisation issues for migrants and refugees have been launched. The report identifies gaps in immunisation policy and practice in Australia and provides recommendations to ensure equitable access to immunisation for newly arrived migrants and refugees in Australia.

Refugee Health Improvement Network is meeting 3 June. Contact Cathy Preston-Thomas for details.

Give your client the details of their next health appointment in their language: Try our new Appointment Reminder Translation Tool. It’s free, fast, and available in 17 languages & 7 service types so far. Click on the link or follow the prompts from our website: www.refugeehealth.org.au. Developed by Web Services (SWSLHD) and the NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS).

An online catalogue of current refugee health research projects is being compiled by the Victorian Refugee Health Network. To access the page click here.

Looking for translated resources? As well as our own Multicultural Health Communication Service Victoria has the Health Translations Online Directory. For harder to find languages see the Refugee Health Information Network (US) database of quality multilingual, public health resources for those providing care to resettled refugees and asylum seekers.
Self-Care Strategies for Refugee Community Leaders webinar on individual and collective reactions to trauma, resilience, compassion fatigue, compassion satisfaction, strategies to promote a collaborative and positive work environment, and self-care. Developed by the US Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Nutrition education project for Afghan refugee women report is now available. Conducted in Mildura (VIC) pilot education program and resources were developed, in response to high rates of type 2 diabetes in adults and dental decay in children from the Afghan community. Click here to access the project report.

Pain scales in multiple languages The British Pain Society has produced a series of pain scales in multiple languages to aid assessment by healthcare professionals. Languages include: English, Arabic, Somali, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu.

Somali Women’s Health Videos on women’s health. Topics include: The reproductive system; Infections, relationships, and cancer; Pregnancy and birth; Other female health issues. Developed by the US Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Publications & research

A sample of published articles is below. Links to abstracts are provided where full texts are not available for free.


16, 22-23 May 2014: *Clinical Practice and New Developments in the Treatment of Refugee Trauma* (one day workshop), $349/219. Carramar, Sydney. Contact STARTTS.

16 Jun 2014: *Healing Trauma: Emotional Transformation through Sand Play Therapy* (clinical evening), STARTTS Carramar. Contact STARTTS.


27 Jun 2014: *Refugee Health Workshop*, open to all health staff in the Nepean/Blue Mountains LHD. Contact Clare Darling to register.


13-14 Aug 2014: *Violence Against Women in Refugee Communities* 2-day training by the Education Centre Against Violence and the NSW Refugee Health Service, Parramatta. See the ECAV website.

9 Sep 2014: Domestic Violence and Refugee Trauma: Clinical Implications and Interventions evening information session, key presenter Dr Yaya de Andrade. STARTTS, Carramar. Contact Nooria.Mehraby@sswahs.nsw.gov.au.

13-14 Oct 2014: *Right to Food Coalition* food security conference, Casula powerhouse. See the website for 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.