**Global increase of refugee numbers:** UNHCR reports the number of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people worldwide exceeds 50 million, the highest number since World War II. Australia received 0.45% of the world’s asylum applications, but ranked second overall and first per capita for refugee resettlement. Read more [here](#).

**Congratulations to those services and projects recognised at RHS’ inaugural Innovations in Refugee Health** event held during Refugee Week. By category, they included:

**Policy:**
- *Refugee Health Promotion Guidance Note for NSW Health Services* developed by the NSW Refugee Health Plan Implementation Group (MOH);
- Refugee Health Plan Implementation Groups established by South Eastern Sydney; Illawarra Shoalhaven; Hunter New England; Nepean Blue Mountains; and Northern Sydney Local Health Districts.

**Research:**
- Immunisation in Under Studied and Special Risk Populations by NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence (UNSW);
- Women at Risk Assessment and Response Tool developed by the Centre for Refugee Research (UNSW) and Settlement Services International;
- Rheumatic Heart Disease in Pregnancy study at UNSW’s School of Women’s & Children’s Health (UNSW).

**Partnerships in Clinical Care:**
- Intensive English Centre Optimising Health and Learning Programs by Evans High School and Youth Health (WSLHD);
- Refugee Oral Health Clinics at Nepean Blue Mountains and Westmead Hospital;
- Care provided by health volunteers at the Asylum Seekers Centre health clinic.

**Primary Care:**
- Inner Western Sydney Medicare Local’s funding of interpreter services for private Allied Healthcare Providers in their region;
- RHS’ Refugee Health Nurse Program;
- Bridgeview Medical Practice (Toongabbie) and over 20 other exemplary primary care and specialist doctors.

**Health education and capacity building:**
- Centre for Oral Health Strategy’s ongoing oral health promotion initiatives;
- RHS’ maternity training module;
- Pregnancy Care Clinic for the Sudanese & Arabic mothers, Blacktown Hospital.

**Polio outbreaks overseas:** Refugee and humanitarian applicants from affected areas will be vaccinated at the departure health check. This will be documented on the health manifest by IOM.

**Victorian Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health Action Plan 2014-2018 launched:** The Plan provides long-term strategic direction to early health assessment and follow-up care for refugees and asylum seekers. The five priority areas are accessibility, expertise in refugee health, service co-ordination, cultural responsiveness, and health literacy and communication. The Victorian Government has committed $22.2 million over four years.
to the program - the largest single state investment in refugee and asylum seeker health in Australian history.

**Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program (UNSW)** will be presenting at next month’s Refugee Health Improvement Network. Tuesday 5th August, 9:30am at Anglicare Parramatta, 16 Parkes St, Parramatta, Contact the Convenor for details.

**Free access to TIS to allied health professionals in Sydney’s Inner West** is continuing until 30 June 2015. Inner Western Sydney Medicare Local is funding free access to TIS National to providers located in this catchment area (clients can live in or outside this area). Registration by local Allied Health providers is essential: contact Rubi Montecinos at IWSML on 9799 0944 or email chronicdisease@iwsml.com.au.

**African Women’s health and support organisation** will be launched on 26 July at the Novotel Parramatta. They aim to promote and support healthy lifestyles among African women. Contact awhaso@yahoo.com.au for more details.

**Introduction to the Health System information sessions**: to organise a Bilingual Community Educator to run a session for your group contact our Bilingual Community Educator Coordinator Lidija Sestakova.

**Transplant Australia’s Diversity Project** is seeking advocates to educate around organ and tissue donation. Read more at the [Multicultural Communication Health Service site](#), or contact Shiva Ford at Transplant Australia on 9922 5400.

**See our Kids in the Kitchen Program in action**: RHS’ free school-holiday activity for children aged 6-12 years provides the opportunity for children to learn new recipes, cook in a team, and share a fun and healthy meal. [Click here](#) to view the 5 minute film.

**Right to Food Coalition’s food security conference** will be exploring governance, population, community and communication solutions to food insecurity, including for refugee populations. Policy makers, academics, community development workers, and health promoters are invited to attend the October conference at Casula powerhouse. See the [website](#) for details.

**New resources**

Supporting humanitarian entrants with disabilities was the topic of the Refugee Council’s last Settlement Policy Network teleconference. [The report](#) can now be downloaded.

**New eLearning tool on Working in Culturally Diverse Contexts** is available from the Health Education & Training Institute (HETI). The course is applicable for all NSW Health Staff and may qualify for up to 0.5 hrs of Continuous Professional Development. [Click here](#) for more information (Course Code: 39962639).

**Royal Australian College of GPs’ resource page on Refugee & Migrant Health** is now available on their website. It lists research, papers, resources and relevant services for GPs.

**Health literacy information sheets**: produced by the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health to support understanding and improving health literacy practice for health professionals and their organisations. The [information sheets](#) include: What is health literacy; Assumptions in the clinical encounter; measuring health literacy; written and verbal communication; using the teach-back technique; planning, monitoring and evaluating for health literacy; and the social determinants of health and health literacy.

**Public submissions to the Australian Human Rights Commission’s Inquiry onto Children in Immigration Detention Centres** are available on the [Inquiry website](#) including that from the Australian College of Nursing and Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurses, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists, and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Submissions to the inquiry are now closed.
On-line presentations from UNSW’s Health, Human Rights and Asylum Seeker Detention Symposium: Working as a Medical Officer within the immigration detention centres on Christmas Island by Dr John-Paul Sanggaran, and Conditions and impact of detention for children on Christmas Island by Asso Prof Karen Zwi. Organized by School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and Public Health Association of Australia.

Working with Muslim women on the effects of family violence and child sexual abuse on children: a new resource for workers running groups has been developed by the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights. It considers the migration, cultural and familial contexts of the impact of family violence and sexual assault on children from a Muslim background. Click here for details.

Stories of Australian women from CALD backgrounds: FECCA collection provides an insight into the experiences of different immigrant women since their arrival in Australia, discussing their life experiences and journeys to Australia. Available on-line.

Publications & research

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


International Health and Medical Services’ doctors (2014) Letter of Concern by International Health and Medical Services’ doctors, November 2013.


Physical and Mental Health Subcommittee of the Joint Advisory Committee for Nauru Regional Processing Arrangements (2014) Nauru site visit report, 16-19 February 2014


Sanggaran JP (2014) Ethical dilemmas in detention centre health care, Australian Doctor, 10 July 2014.


23 July 2014: NSW Refugee Health Nurse Forum (one-day workshop) for refugee health nurses, RHS, Liverpool.


7 Aug 2014: 'Measuring Best Practice: Evaluating Community Development' STARTTS' Community Development evening, Carramar.

13-14 Aug 2014: Violence against Women in Refugee Communities (2-day training) by ECAV and RHS. See the ECAV website for details. Parramatta.

21-22 Aug 2014: Clinical Approaches in the Treatment of Refugee Trauma in Children and Adolescents (one-day workshop) $249/$149. STARTTS Carramar.

28 Aug 2014: Ethics Symposium includes Prof David Isaacs (Clinical Professor in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Children’s Hospital, Westmead) talk entitled 'What the Good Samaritan can teach us about asylum seekers and about buying pharmaceuticals'. Email: georgette.hanna@sydney.edu.au for details. Westmead Hospital, Sydney.


9 Sept 2014: Domestic Violence and Refugee Trauma: Clinical Implications and Interventions evening information session. Click here to register. STARTTS, Carramar.

11 Sept 2014: Working Clinically with Violence in the Context of Refugee Trauma and Resettlement (one-day seminar), presenter Dr Yaya de Andrade, PhD. $215/$195/$165. Click here to register. Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney.

19 Sept 2014: Biofeedback in Working with Torture and Trauma Survivors (one-day workshop) $149/$99. Click here to register. STARTTS Carramar.


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@sswhs.nsw.gov.au.