**The Syrian caseload:** NSW is expected to accept 4–7,000 refugees, out of the 12,000 arriving to Australia. These are in addition to the annual intake of 13,750 (usually around 4,000 to NSW per year). Their gradual arrival is likely to increase until June 2017, with small numbers arriving before Christmas this year.

The focus is on the most vulnerable living in camps in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, including a high proportion of children, single-parent families (often due to death of a parent in the war) and may include some people with health conditions and disabilities. It is likely that this population would have been exposed to a high degree of trauma. The Refugee Health Service (RHS) expects that many from this group will settle in the Fairfield and Liverpool areas due to their close proximity to the community, settlement in regional areas is still unclear.

Some useful resources include:
- [Australia’s response to the Syrian and Iraqi humanitarian crisis](#), Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- [Syrian refugees - key issues](#), Royal Children’s Hospital Immigrant Health Clinic
- [Mental Health of Syrian refugees](#), Transcultural Mental Health Centre.

**NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS) is recruiting Bilingual Community Educators** to deliver health information to newly arrived refugees in Arabic, Assyrian, Dari, Farsi, Burmese, Karen, Rohingya, and Tamil. For details, contact the BCE Program Coordinator Lidija Sestakova or call 8778 0770. Applications close 4 Dec 2015.


**Calls to end detention of children:** health professionals in NSW have followed staff at Melbourne’s [Royal Children’s Hospital](#), holding public rallies outside [Liverpool Hospital](#), [Westmead Children's Hospital](#), and [Randwick Children's Hospital](#).

**Fundraising for hearing aids for newly-arrived Tibetans:** The Northern Beaches Tibetan Health Fund has organised a lunch on Sunday, 29th November 2015 at the Kingfisher Indian Restaurant, Dee Why. Tickets are $50.

**Seeking health professionals for WSU study on sexual and reproductive health of refugee and migrant women:** Participation involves a brief [online survey](#). The second phase involves an interview. GPs, nurses, midwives, psychologists, sexual health professionals, health promotion officers, health education workers and social workers are invited to participate. See this link for [more information](#).

**Kids in the Kitchen holiday program for newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers** will be held on 20 January in Fairfield, providing a safe, fun environment for children aged 5-12 years to learn about nutrition and physical exercise. [Contact PHOR](#) for details.

**Congratulations to Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste** for being named a state finalist for Australian of the Year awards. Dr Bunde-Birouste, from UNSW’s School of Public Health and Community Medicine, created [Football United](#) in 2006 to support refugee youth and families in transition into Australian society.
New resources

New RHS factsheet - **Health Undertakings for migrants & refugees arriving in NSW** is now available. It explains health undertakings, and provides details of Chest Clinics across NSW.

**Information for health practitioners working with asylum seekers**: The Victorian Refugee Health Network has released an [information sheet](#) on health information collected/requested by DIBP.

**Mental health services can now use the Appointment Reminder Translation Tool**: Select the ‘Emotional health’ appointment type to create a translated appointment card. Appointment details are in a PDF format that can be given to the patient, emailed, or posted. It is an free, easy strategy to reduce no-shows. Produced with the advice of the Transcultural Mental Health Centre and available in 30 languages.

**New ‘Teach-Back’ video**: Teach Back is an evidence-based technique to address health literacy. It can be used with all patients universally to reduce misunderstanding improve communication with patients. The Teach-Back video was developed by the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, St Vincent’s Hospital, and Melbourne Primary Care Network.

**STARTTS’ Tamil Community Consultation Report** provides a good background into the history of conflict in Sri Lanka, the community in NSW, issues relevant to health including traditional ways of coping, mourning, and current needs.

**Refugee oral health resources**: An extensive collection of research and resources is available on the [Victorian Refugee Health Network’s oral health edition](#) (Sept 2015).

**Peer-reviewed web resource for health care providers** on Caring for Kids New to Canada: the site includes a page dedicated to Female Genital Mutilation/Circumcision.

**Starting the conversation on breast cancer**: Part of the successful Pink Sari Project, [this video](#) was produced by Palmera Projects, for Indian and Sri Lankan women.

Publications & research

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


Savic M, Chur-Hansen A, et al (2015) *'We don’t have to go and see a special person to solve this problem': Trauma, mental health beliefs and processes for addressing ‘mental health issues’ among Sudanese refugees in Australia*, *Int Jn Soc Psych* [e-pub].


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**Training and professional development**

**20 Nov 2015**: *Toward Best Practice in Integrated Care: Celebrating successes, confronting challenges* symposium organised by the Sydney Alliance for Research Royal Hospital for Women Lecture Theatre, Randwick. Speakers include the Minister of Health, the Hon Jillian Skinner, and RHS’ Nurse Manager, Sandy Eagar. Register online and view the Program.

**8 Dec 2015**: Launch of the New Roots Project to rebuild the mental health of men from Arabic, Farsi and Tamil-speaking communities. Developed by Settlement Services International in partnership with beyondblue. RSVP essential, Bankstown.

**20, 26-27 Nov 2015**: *Clinical Practice and New Developments in the Treatment of Refugee Trauma* (three-day workshop) $349/$219, STARTTS, Carramar.

**25 Nov 2015**: *Wholistic Care of Refugees in Primary Care* training for GPs organised by South Western Sydney Primary Health Network. Contact Ms Allison Tran or register on line.
26 Nov 2015: NSW Refugee Women’s Health Network. Guest speaker is Danielle Begg, Project Officer from The Vasudhara Foundation who uses yoga as an intervention with refugee and asylum-seeking women.


27 Nov 2015: CALD Perinatal Conference – The future in maternity and child health service, Westmead Hospital. Register with the Community Migrant Resource Centre. For details contact Nelma Galas, WSLHD.

2 Dec 2015: Research symposium: Latest Research on Effective Interventions and Models for Refugee Trauma: Annual Update. Speakers include Prof Zachary Steel, St John of God Professorial Chair of Trauma and Mental Health and Dr. Angela Nickerson Director, Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program, UNSW. Register through STARTTS. Merrylands or via the live broadcast.

9 Dec 2015: Helping Smokers from Multicultural Backgrounds Stop Smoking (one-day training workshop). Cost is free. RSVP by 2 December to Nicole Stevens ph 8753 5047. Sydney.

9 Dec 2015: Working With Young People from Multicultural Backgrounds (one-day training) for workers whose roles involve working with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Cost is $100/160. Register with MYAN NSW. Olympic Park, Sydney.

1 Mar 2016: Refugee Health Improvement Network meeting. Guest speaker: Professor Mark Harris on health literacy in refugee communities. Contact the Convenor for details or to link via video conference (priority given to sites outside of Sydney). RHS, Liverpool.

8-9 Mar 2016: Sustainable Refugee Settlement Conference. Speakers include Paris Aristotle (Foundation House), Jorge Aroche (STARTTS) and our own Dr Mitchell Smith. To register call 1300 316 882 or book online. Parramatta.


5-7 May 2016: Settlement Council of Australia International Conference – Settlement and Citizenship in Civil Society. Speakers include Professor Emeritus John Berry (Department of Psychology, Queen’s University). Melbourne.


If you have a health-related refugee item for the next Refugee Health e-News please contact: Cathy.Preston-Thomas@sswahs.nsw.gov.au, NSW Refugee Health Service (02) 8778 0770.