Updated Refugee Guidelines: Recommendations for a Comprehensive Post-Arrival Health Assessment for People from Refugee-like Backgrounds are intended for healthcare providers who care for people from refugee backgrounds. Key recommendations include a tailored approach to screening with risk-based (vs universal) screening for selected conditions. It includes new recommendations for non-infectious conditions. Developed by the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases and the Refugee Health Network of Australia.

Syrian arrivals have started: Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s Population Profile: Syrian Refugees, November 2015; Melbourne’s Royal Childrens Hospital’s Immigrant Health has a comprehensive list of Syrian Health issues. Mater Refugee Health (QLD) has developed a film for newly arrived patients on initial health checks in Arabic and English so patients know what to expect. To order DVD versions contact Ally Wakefield.

Health-specific tours of a Refugee Camp in my Neighbourhood: The Refugee Health Service (RHS) is working with Cumberland Council to provide free tours of a refugee camp setting to give health professionals greater insight into the background and health challenges of their patients. Health tours will take place on Thursday 4 August in Auburn. Bookings are essential and can be made online soon: www.refugeeweekauburn.com.au.

Health-related events for Refugee Week include:
- Dr Peter Young, former director of mental health services in detention, speaking at ASC’s Speaking of Freedom event, Sydney Town Hall, 22 June, 6.30-8.00pm;
- Presentations by RHS’ Dr Mitchell Smith at Grand Rounds at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (17 June), and Liverpool Hospital (23 June);
- RHS information stalls at both Fairfield and Liverpool Hospitals. Activities will be held across Australia, see http://www.refugeeweek.org.au for details.

Dementia and Refugee Communities is the topic of the next Refugee Health Improvement Network meeting. Guest speaker: Michelle Bruce Basic from Alzheimer’s Australia NSW, Tuesday 7th June 2016, 9:30am, NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS), Liverpool. Contact the Convenor for details.

Health in immigration detention: The health and well-being of children in immigration detention report was released by the Human Rights Commission. Numerous peak health organisations have made submissions to the Senate inquiry submissions on conditions and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in Nauru and PNG including: AMA, RACGP, RACP, Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne, RANZCP, Occupational Therapy Australia, and Australian Psychological Society. These are available online.

Queensland’s strategic framework for Refugee Health and Wellbeing 2016 is now available online.

Congratulations to Nooria Mehraby winner of the Australian-Muslim Achievement Awards’ Professional of the Year. Nooria is an overseas-trained doctor from Afghanistan, who has devoted most of her working life to the service of those displaced by war, both in Pakistan, and in NSW where she has worked as a counselor, clinical trainer, author and speaker at STARTTS for over two decades. A well-deserved honour.
New resources

**NSW Health Care System Information Booklet has been updated** in Arabic, Burmese, Dari, Farsi, Karen, Nepali, Tamil, Thai. This booklet offers newly-arrived refugees and migrants essential information about the public health care system in NSW and how to use it. Topics include:

- How do I pay for health care?
- How do I see a doctor?
- What health services are available in my local area?
- What are my health care rights?
- What do I do in an emergency?

An updated Health Service Directory for Western Sydney West & South Western Sydney Local Health Districts is also available.

**Appointment Reminder Translation Tool is now available for physiotherapists.** Simply select the ‘Physiotherapy’ appointment type to create a translated appointment card. The appointment letter can be given to the patient face-to-face, emailed, or posted. Available in 33 languages.

**Supporting CALD communities to talk about suicide factsheets** are available to help health professionals conduct safe and appropriate discussions about suicide with CALD communities. Developed by the Hunter Institute of Mental Health, with the Mental Health Commission of NSW and Transcultural Mental Health Centre. Available online.

**On arrival health assessments for children Webinar:** presented by Dr Karen Kiang, Refugee Health Fellow at the Royal Children’s Hospital, with a focus on the needs of people fleeing the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Sponsored by the Victorian Primary Health Network Alliance and the Victorian Refugee Health Network.

**Professional, societal, and personal implications of mandatory detention Podcast:** presented by Prof Louise Newman, current Convenor of the Alliance of Health Professions for Asylum Seekers. Available from the [CPD online webpage of the RANZCP](#).

**Global views:** UNFPA’s *Shelter from the Storm: A transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world* provides data from across the globe on women’s health in crisis; UNICEF’s *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Global Concern* is the most up-to-date compilation of statistics on FGM/C.

**Health literacy:** Victorian Refugee Health Network and Health Issues Centre has released a report on *Working together to Improving health literacy in refugee women* documenting phase one of a three-part project to understand the health information needs of refugee women and how best to provide this information.

Publications & research

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


Amasanti M, Imcha M, Momoh C (2016) *Compassionate and Proactive Interventions by Health Workers in the United Kingdom: A Better Approach to Prevent and Respond to Female Genital Mutilation?* PLOS Medicine, 22 March


Jefee-Bahloul H, Barkil-Oteo A, Univserity (2016) Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of Syrians affected by armed conflict, Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences, Special Article

Kartal D, Kiropoulos L (2016) Effects of acculturative stress on PTSD, depressive and anxiety symptoms among refugees resettled in Australia and Austria, Euro Jn of Psychotraumatology, 7:28711


Riggs E, Yelland J, et al (2016) 'We are all scared for the baby': Promoting access to dental services for refugee background women during pregnancy, BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth, 16(1)


### Training, networking and professional development

- **2 Jun 2016**: *Early Interventions in Maternal and Child Health* - Multicultural Health Research to Practice Forum. St George Hospital. [RSVP online](#). For queries contact cathy.ocallaghan@health.nsw.gov.au on 9382 8679.

- **6-10 Jun 2016**: *International Childhood Trauma Conference*. Melbourne.

- **7 Jun 2016**: NSW Refugee Health Improvement Network. Special topic: Dementia in refugee communities. 9:30-12:00. Liverpool. Contact [the Convenor](#) for details.

- **7 Jun 2016**: *Cultural Competence in Working with People from Refugee Backgrounds* one-day STARTTS workshop, $149/$99, Newcastle.

- **7-9 Jun 2016**: *15th National Immunisation Conference 2016*. Themes include ‘Vaccine Preventable Diseases in special populations, including people from refugee backgrounds’. Brisbane.

- **9 June 2016**: *NDIS and Networking and Promoting to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities*, Sydney. [See MDAA for more information](#).


- **18 Jun 2016**: *Psychology & Culture Online Conference* exploring the impact of culture and the migrant experience on the human psyche, including the impact of torture and trauma on migrant experience. Speakers include Prof Louise Newman. [Details online](#).


- **22-25 Jun 2016**: *World Congress of Behavioural and Cognitive Therapies*, where the Refugee Trauma Recovery Program will present a research symposium. Melbourne.

- **26 Jun 2016**: *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture*.


- **22 Jul 2016**: *Core concepts in working with children and adolescents from refugee backgrounds, one-day STARTTS workshop*. Carramar, Sydney.

- **4 Aug 2016**: Health-specific tours of a *Refugee Camp in my Neighbourhood*. Developed by Cumberland Council, in partnership with RHS. Tours leave every 15mins from 12:30 until 2:30 and are 2 hours duration. Tours are free but booking is essential. Auburn.

- **25 Aug 2016**: Refugee Women’s Health Network, Blacktown Hospital. Contact the [Convenor](#) 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.