Concerns about ‘No jab, No Pay” laws: Doctors have raised concerns that legislation that can withhold family assistance payments to parents of un-immunised children, may see migrant and refugee children lose access to these payments. For details, see the Perspective: Medical Journal of Australia, and related media release.

Changes to the Border Force Act: health professionals who provide services to the Department of Immigration as contractors or as employees of contractors are no longer subject to the secrecy and disclosure provisions of the Border Force Act, following a recent amendment to the Act.

Refugee Health Forum: Join us at the Research to Practice Forum on Refugee Health on 15 November. Speakers include Dr Jill Benson (Director, Health and Human Diversity, University of Adelaide), Dr Mitchell Smith (Director, Refugee Health Service), Diana O’Brien (RN, Multicultural Health Service SESLHD), Renee Symon (Clinical Psychologist & Board member of Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home), and Asso Prof Karen Zwi (Clinical Lead Refugee Health Service SCHN). Organised by the Multicultural Health SESLHD and the NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS). Registration is free but bookings are essential.

Refugee Health Service is recruiting: RHS is seeking a temporary full time Social Worker to join our team in Liverpool, Sydney. See NSW Health eRecruit for this and other upcoming positions.

Detention health:
- Amnesty International’s Island of Despair: Australia’s ‘processing’ of refugees on Nauru report includes a section on health care arrangements;
- Australian Association for Adolescent Health’s position statement on Young People in Immigration Detention;
- STARTTS’ Statement regarding people transferred by Australia to Papua New Guinea & Nauru;
- Australian National Audit Office’s Delivery of Health Services in Onshore Immigration Detention, provides an assessment of the effectiveness of the Department of the administration of health services in onshore immigration detention.

Launch of HETI’s online training module on refugee health: this great online resource is now available for free to all public health staff – follow the links to HETI online via your LHD intranet.

The Refugee Camp in my Neighbourhood Project is recognized: The International Association for Public Participation (Australasia) awarded Cumberland Council their prestigious Community Development Award 2016. RHS was a project partner, developing tours specifically for health professionals. Congratulations to all involved.
A needs analysis of catch-up immunisation in refugee-background and asylum seeker communities in Victoria: This Victorian Refugee Health Network (VRHN) report examines catch-up immunisation for people of refugee background including people seeking asylum in Victoria, and explores effective models of service delivery to complete catch-up vaccinations.

New web resources for NSW GPs: RHS’ website has a new information section especially for GPs, containing information on clinical guidelines, immunisation, training and support, using interpreters, our nurse-led clinics, and recommended readings for those wishing to know more.

Engaging and supporting general practice in refugee health: This VRHN report details a two year project that aimed to document, develop and trial an approach to engaging and supporting general practices in the delivery of accessible and appropriate health care to people from refugee backgrounds, including those seeking asylum.

Forced Marriage: A good practice guide: provides an introduction to the issue and essential information to help front-line workers identify young people at risk and where to find specialised support services. Download the guide here.

Updated Building a New Life in Australia booklet: provides settlement information, including health information, to newly arrived humanitarian entrants. Available on the DSS website.

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**Publications & research**

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


Tambe Keboa M (2016) The oral health of refugees and asylum seekers: a scoping review, Globalization and Health,

Valibhoy M (2016) “It comes down to just how human someone can be”: A qualitative study with young people from refugee backgrounds about their experiences of Australian mental health services, Transcultural Psychiatry, published online


Training and professional development

15 Nov 2016: Research to Practice Forum on Refugee Health organised by Multicultural Health SESLHD and RHS, RSVP online. Wolli Creek, Sydney.

17-18 Nov 2016: Enhancing Outcomes in Complex Trauma: The Integration of Psychotherapy with Evidence-Based Neurobiological Methods clinical seminar. Speaker Dr Bessel van der Kolk. Organised by STARTTS, Sydney.

23 Nov 2016: Latest Research on Effective Interventions and Models for Refugee Trauma: Annual Update 2016. Speakers Professor Derrick Silove, Dr Belinda Liddell, Dr Linda Bartolomei, and Professor Eileen Pittaway. Organised by STARTTS, Merrylands.

24 Nov 2016: Refugee Women’s Health Network. Guest speaker: Andrea Pritchard, Team Leader, STARTTS. Contact the RWHN Convenor for details.


5-7 Dec 2016: IRTC’s General Assembly and Scientific Symposium: Delivering on the promise of the Right to Rehabilitation, Mexico City.

1 Dec 2016: Multicultural Wellness Festival, St Luke’s Church Grounds, Liverpool NSW.

6 Dec 2016: Refugee Health Network of Australia's (RHeaNA) national teleconference. If you have issues of national significance and would like to get in touch with one of RHeaNA’s NSW representatives please email Dr Mitchell Smith.


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 refugeehealth@sswahs.nsw.gov.au.