Successful health data pilot project to be rolled out

NSW Refugee Health Service (RHS), Settlement Services International and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have been working together to provide DHS faster access to the medical evidence needed to make an assessment of a newly arrived refugee’s needs. With client consent, health information collected overseas and on-arrival has been shared directly with DHS. This has resulted in more timely and accurate assistance with correct payments to recently arrived refugees and their carers, and enables individual health circumstances to be taken into account when assessing the client’s mutual responsibilities. Based on a Brisbane model, the Sydney project is now being trialled in Armidale, with other regions to follow.

ADA NSW offers pro bono dental treatment to asylum seekers from Nauru

The Australian Dental Association’s NSW Branch (ADA NSW) is offering pro bono oral health assessments and dental treatment at its clinic at St Leonards, in Sydney’s north, for children and their families who have been held in detention on Nauru.

Support for new parents and babies in NSW Report highlights RHS program

RHS’ Early Childhood Refugee Nurse Program was highlighted in the Legislative Assembly of NSW’s Committee on Community Services report Support for new parents and babies in New South Wales. One of the report’s recommendations was that NSW Health and the Department of Family and Community Services expand proven sustained home visiting programs for at risk families across the state. Many refugee families are excluded from mainstream sustained home visiting programs as non-English speakers are ineligible in some Local Health Districts. RHS’ Program partially fills that gap by providing home visiting for refugee families who have a child aged 0-5 years.

Caring for children in immigration detention in public hospitals

The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network (SCHN) has released a policy Care of Children in Immigration Detention, to assist ward and other staff maintain a high quality care when working with children and their families who are technically in detention but receiving services in SCHN. For example, specifying that detention security staff must wear plainclothes while at the hospital and not be present within the room while care is being provided.

Multicultural NSW Interpreter Scholarships Program

Do you know someone who would like to become an interpreter? Multicultural NSW has launched a new program offering fully funded scholarships to people who speak many refugee-relevant languages to participate in an interpreter training course at TAFE NSW, in metro Sydney and regional NSW throughout 2019. Graduates will be eligible for recognition with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters. Click here for more information or to express interest. Community information sessions will be held in Port Macquarie (4 Mar) and Coffs Harbour (5 Mar). Contact Sahba Clara Delshad, or ph: (02) 8255 6746.

Migration, Health and Wellbeing Conference - Call for papers

The two-day Migration, Health and Wellbeing Conference in Otago (NZ) is calling for papers. Due by 1 June 2019.
Consumer input on the new Refugee Health Plan

A community consultation on refugee health issues is being held with refugee communities for the new NSW Refugee Health Plan. The Refugee Council of Australia and the Refugee Communities Advocacy Network NSW is hosting Urbis’ consultation in Auburn on 10 February 2019, 11:30am-12:30pm. See the RCOA website for the full consultation program or to register. Consultations are for consumers only, not for service providers or non-refugee observers.

Review of integration, employment and settlement outcomes for refugees

RHS recently had input into the independent Review of Australia’s integration, employment and settlement outcomes for humanitarian entrants which was announced by the Prime Minister on 13 December 2018. The review is being led by Professor Peter Shergold, with a focus on employment, integration and settlement.

RHS’ Disability Support Group

RHS Disability Support Group’s first meeting for 2019 is being held on 8th February in Fairfield, Sydney. The monthly “For A Good Life” group provides newly-arrived refugee families support and education on a variety of topics such as: NDIS, housing, education, legal rights, respite, carer entitlements, employment and family reunification. The group also helps participants to conceptualise models of care, overcome communication obstacles related to language and literacy, and reduce social isolation. For more details contact RHS. Details of RHS’ disability team are available on our website: Disability Support Team.

Congratulations to Frances Rush OAM

Asylum Seekers Centre’s CEO, Frances Rush, has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours for her “service to the community through social welfare organisations”. It is a well-deserved honour.

Resources

Refugee Health Assessment Template 2018

Victorian Refugee Health Network has updated its Refugee Health Assessment Template. The Template supports the delivery of refugee health assessments in line with current clinical recommendations, for primary care providers completing the Refugee Health Assessment Medicare Item: 701, 703, 705, and 707. The template is now available for Medical Director and Best Practice.

SRSS Medical Evidence Fact Sheet

Department of Home Affairs has issued a Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Medical Evidence fact sheet for medical professionals providing evidence for applications for SRSS. Health professionals are integral to the new SRSS model as they are required to provide regular reports about a person’s health status, treatment plans and the impact that this may have on their ability to work. Advice is also available from the Victorian Refugee Health Network: Important information for health providers about the changes to SRSS.

Free From Violence against Women and Girls Report

This 2018 report has emerged from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) work with women seeking asylum; a particularly vulnerable group to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) who face multiple and complex barriers to exercising their rights and accessing appropriate support services in Australia.

Podcast series explores interactions of culture, language and health

The Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health (CEH) has developed a five-part podcast series which explores the way language, culture and health interact. In each episode CEH talks to healthcare...
professionals and community members about the role translated health information plays in their lives. CEH manages Health Translations that has over 18,000 resources available in more than 105 languages.

Multilingual resources to beat the heat and stay healthy during the hot weather

The NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service has 3 multilingual resources available to download for tips to beat the heat and stay healthy during summer:

- A leaflet 'Beat the Heat – Health tips for a safe season'
- The factsheet 'Heat-related illness including heat stroke'
- The booklet ‘How to keep someone healthy during hot weather’

Training and professional development

13-15 Feb 2019: Compassion Focused Therapy - A clinical Workshop: Dr Paul Gilbert and Dr James Kirby, STARTTS Sydney.

22-24 Feb 2019: PACFA Working with Trauma Conference 2019; Sydney


27-29 Mar 2019: 2nd Australia and New Zealand Refugee Trauma Recovery in Resettlement Conference; Brisbane.


3 Jul 2019: Clinical Masterclass: Clinical Challenges and Opportunities in Working with Child Protection in the Context of Cultural Diversity and Refugee Trauma - at STARTTS Carramar or by live webcast (free).

Publications

[For published articles below; links to abstracts are provided where full texts are not available for free]


If you have a health-related refugee item for the next Refugee Health E-news please contact us:

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