

Refugee Health Partnerships Advisory Group Qld

Summary from meeting held: Tuesday 1st May 2018



Representatives from:

Metro South Refugee Health Service, Mater Refugee Health, NAPHL, Metro North HHS, CHQ, QMHODB, MDA, TMSG, Access, QPASTT, BSPHN, DDWMPHN, BNPHN, Mater/UQ Centre for Integrated Care and Innovation, MAQ, QH CDB, IWMHHS, Red Cross, QH Strategic Policy and Planning, QUT, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Townsville HHS, Cairns and Hinterland HHS, Centrecare Cairns, QH OCDO)

Qld Settlement Data	Humanitarian Settlement Reports: Download all reports here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival Data Qld Jan to March 2018 • Brisbane North and Brisbane South data from Refugee Health Connect Jan to March
Updates/Issues	Outcomes/Details/Decisions
Townsville Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very busy settlement period, with more arriving with complex health needs and on 204 Women at Risk visas. • Partners working together in improve access to oral health and TB services. • Local network redeveloping TOR and will continue to work on engagement with PHN. RHNQ to provide support where appropriate
Cairns Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Audiology Screening remains a challenge. RH PAGQ to write advocacy letter to hearing Australia regarding screening. • QPASTT service returning to Cairns to provide counselling services
Toowoomba Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very busy with increased settlement. Kobi house now have 2 x full time employees. • Notes high prevalence of childhood health issues: cerebral palsy, hearing, mental health, and oral health issues (NB: challenge to oral health access - dentist is on long term leave with an illness).
Asylum Seeker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRSS contract moving from Red Cross to MDA • Changes to SRSS program eligibility: (https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getting-help/information-guidance/srss-payments-factsheet/) • Potential increase in Asylum Seekers approaching services for emergency relief; funds for medications and homeless services.
Evaluation and Research Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training with refugee community advisors (G11) and Cairns and Toowoomba community members completed, interviews starting shortly. • Ethics approval granted. • Finalising the contract between Mater and QUT
TB Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New national TB guidelines soon to be published. QLD guidelines will go out after the national guidelines for review. RHPAGQ will be invited to provide feedback
Interpreter Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First meeting to be held 3/05/18. First meeting to discuss the scope and purpose of the group, and develop TORs. • Opportune time due to change in Qld Government interpreter services – tender agreement finalised, commencing 1 July 2018.

<p>Health Information Flow - Settlement reports (Health)/HAPLite and advocacy required.</p>	<p><i>Regarding Settlement reports (Health):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under new HSP, health services are expected now to utilise ‘HAPLite’, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) offshore medical database to view health information for new arrivals. • There had been no consultation around the implementation of this new procedure and RH PAGQ wrote to Department of Social Services (DSS) requesting an extension to the interim arrangement where DSS provided health reports so that procedures could be put in place. This request was denied. • DHA had previously stated preference for one or two administrations of HAPLite for the state; however the resources and structures are not available in Qld. <i>(update since meeting – DHA will now allow services and GPs in Qld to register directly with DHA to be an administrator and user – no only 2 administrators as originally requested.)</i> • Toowoomba have been trialling HAPLite, other sites have had demonstration but are not using it currently. • RH PAGQ to write to Qld Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Include what the Refugee Health services need and framed under a ‘risk framework’ i.e three key issues need to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Privacy risk ○ Resources ○ Health risk (to incoming client and community) <p><i>(Update since meeting, DHA allowed for additional users so focus of the letter changed. Subsequently an invitation for the Network to meet with the Minister has been extended. Meeting to occur 5 June to discuss above challenges as well as the other work of the network) Letter has been re-framed as a brief for the Ministers office.</i></p>
<p>Qld Health Ethnicity Data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnicity data research project is moving forward. • Requesting consultation with Queensland Health staff
<p>Community Champions Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QPASTT has developed project to tackle alcohol and other drug use in refugee background populations
<p>ABS Data Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABS is doing a review of the census, inviting submission for any changes. Requesting information regarding languages and ethnicity, etc. Members to provide feedback as appropriate, For details see: Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Topics, 2021, www.abs.gov.au/census-consult, Census topics