

Improving immunisation coverage for newly arrived refugees through co-location and partnership

Our integrated model of care:

- Mater Refugee Health Service is integrated within GP practices in areas of high settlement by co-locating specialist Refugee Health Nurses (RHNs) in these practices
- Partner with PHNs to identify refugee-friendly practices
- All new refugee arrivals referred to these practices for Refugee Health Assessment and followed by RHNs in practice for 6 months

What support do we provide to GP practices?

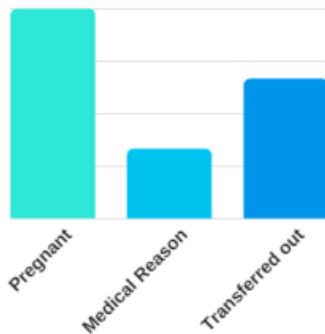
- Refugee Health Connect – one point of call advice line
- Suite of resources on [Refugee Health Network Queensland website](#)



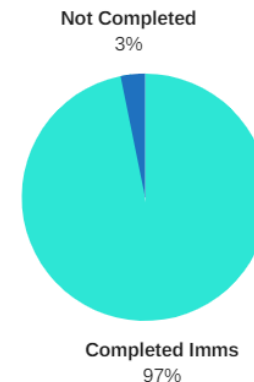
Patient cohort

- 1st January – 30th June 2017
- **194 patients** linked to 7 GP practices with RHN across Brisbane North and South
- Age range 8 months – 79 years
- Average number of days from Refugee Health Assessment to completed imms catch-up = 138 days

6 out of 194 could not be vaccinated



182 out of 188 who could be vaccinated completed catch up imms



What does this mean?

- A population recognised as having multiple access issues in primary care are receiving high levels of immunisation coverage across **all age ranges**
- GP practices in areas of high settlement have the skills and resources to provide quality immunisation service to refugees
- Newly arrived refugees are supported to engage with and become well linked with local GP practice

Recommendations

- Co-location of specialist refugee health nurses in GP practices in areas of high refugee settlement facilitates high vaccination coverage rates and assists with linking people to primary care
- Multi-agency support is important to provide resources and sustainability for practices