

Refugee Health Partnerships Advisory Group Qld
Summary of Minutes Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 12.30pm to 2.30pm



Attendance: ACCESS , Australian Red Cross , Brisbane South PHN, Cairns HHS, Centacare Cairns, Children's Health Queensland (CHQ), Darling Downs and West Moreton HHS, Far North QLD PHN, GCPHN , West Moreton HHS, Kobi House, MCCGC , Mater Refugee Health, Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Metro North HHS, Metro South HHS, Multicultural Australia , Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Pharmacy Guild, QH Social Policy & Legislation, Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT), QTCMHC, RACGP-SIG, Refugee Health Network Queensland (RHNQ), Refugee Health Network Australia (RHeaNA), Romero Centre/Asylum Response Group , Townsville HHS, Townsville Northern Australia Primary Health Limited (NAPHL), Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG)

Apologies: Brisbane North PHN, ECCQ, GCHHS, Dept. of Home Affairs, Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Public Health Communicable Diseases Branch, St Vincent's Private Hospital

Settlement Data:	
State-wide Data	https://www.refugeehealthnetworkqld.org.au/settlement-data-2/
New Business	
Policy and Action Plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Working Group has been working with QUT to draft the new Refugee Health Policy and Action plan. This will be informed by feedback received on the current Refugee Health Policy and Action Plan 2017-2020, Evaluation report and discussions from the Policy Working Group. The new Policy and Action Plan is also aligned with Multicultural Action Plan 2019–20 to 2021–22 where one of the actions for QH is to 'Develop and release a new refugee health and wellbeing policy and action plan'. Over next three months - facilitated consultations with specific working groups to formulate activities that align with the broader actions and priority areas.
Settlement/ HSP/ Health Interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low arrivals due to COVID-19 and border closures. An increase of referrals of clients into the Specialised Intensive Services program for clients with complex health issues, mental health issues and domestic and family violence. RHNQ met with Alison Larkins (Commonwealth Coordinator-General of Migrant Services) and discussed mechanisms for collaboratively working with the settlement services and health services to look at the HSP model and the KPIs, also highlighting that we cannot achieve the triple Es (Employment, Education, English) without health. In addition, discussed opportunities to progress a National Refugee Health and Wellbeing framework.
Refugee Health sector Coordination of COVID Vaccine roll out for people seeking asylum, CALD and refugee background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHNQ to convene a meeting with refugee health services to discuss how to support COVID vaccine roll out in CALD communities. RHNQ is supporting Holly Seale (Associate Professor in UNSW) who working on a glossary of terms around immunisations, to support interpreters.

Support for Amparo	Members endorsed for RHNQ to draft a letter to the relevant Minister (cc the Premier), to support for Amparo's funding and emphasize on their significant role in disability advocacy within the CALD and refugee background communities.
Refugee Health Network Qld Updates:	
COVID 19 engagement project overview and other updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benine Muriithi (Partnership engagement) and Grace Edward (youth engagement) have been employed in this project. The roles will be guided by the partnership steering group, which is made up of the partners that initially put together the proposal around this community engagement project. • QH has been jointly working with stakeholders to put together a CALD COVID vaccination plan (for an internal audience- COVID response group of senior executives and clinicians across HHSs). • RHNQ beginning to put together the final report against the 2017-2020 Refugee Health Policy and Action Plan, will be seeking input from members.
RHeaNA Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to The National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy- to be inclusive of the needs of CALD communities. • Working on a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee with regards to independent assessments under the NDIS (due on 31st March). • Advocacy and correspondence with Dr Ruth Vine (Deputy CMO Mental Health) on access to interpreting services for mental health care providers and increasing levels of self-harm inside immigration detention facilities. • IGRA advocacy- RHeaNA to write a letter to National Tuberculosis Advisory Committee (NTAC) and Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) to advocate for MBS funding for IGRA for latent TB screening.
Working Group Issues and Actions:	
G11 Refugee Health Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G11 continue to liaise with communities about COVID-19 updates including restrictions on travel and COVID-19 vaccine – mainly by sharing translated information via social media. • Health System Navigation Health Literacy Project has started – G11 plus additional community health leader from Congo and Matu Chin – Coordinated by Grace Edward. • G11 member/s sitting on the Network Working groups and other groups (CAG, Policy and action Plan WG, Oral Health, Mental health, Sexual health, Interpreter working group). • Focus for next 2 months on interviewing community members as part of QUT COVID messaging evaluation project.
Clinical Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in COVID vaccine Q and As for community and service providers • Updating of RHNQ clinical guidelines for primary care • Planning education event in May for GPs with community members and G11 to discuss vaccine concerns and hesitancy • Advocacy for IGRA to be funded for latent TB screening in refugee cohort

Mental Health Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QPASTT and WWG (members of the ASRA consortium) have received funding from Queensland Health (for 12 months) to support mental health and health needs of people seeking asylum living in the community. • A draft of mental health referral pathways, incorporating the above services, has been developed. Once finalised, it will be circulated to the group and available on the RHNQ website
Interpreter Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RHNQ attended meeting with Health Ministers' advisor to discuss interpreter program recommendations report and seek actioning of recommendations. Further meeting with Health Minister's Chief of Staff to raise this issue again. • QAIWG met with Ministers' Advisor re: HSQ recommendations report • Federal Government CALD Vaccine implementation plan, discusses need for allied health access to interpreters • Need identified for training interpreters on vaccination terminologies – federal/state/local vaccine roll out
Oral Health Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New referral and access guidelines submitted for approval • Welcomed new representatives to the oral health working group from West Moreton HHS and World Wellness Group • Toowoomba and Cairns & Hinterland facing challenges getting care to R&As – wait lists not really moving (Toowoomba negotiating with Tzu Chi to try and run dental fair in 2021). • Still some challenges around specific visa conditions and eligibility for oral health services
Policy Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group met to finalise a draft policy and action plan with agreed: vision, principles and 6 strategic priority areas. Under each strategic priority overarching actions have been outlined. Aim is to consult with all the working groups, regional groups, PAG and other stakeholders to ensure the document captures the key issues and maps way forward for the next 3-4 years. Groups will be asked to also identify specific activities against the actions. • Consultation time frame and capacity to capture all the feedback may extend to mid-year. This may extend time frame for the launch of the new policy and action plan