

Mater Refugee Health Advisory Group (known as “the G11”)



[Mater Refugee and Multicultural Health Service](#) support 11 consultants from 11 multicultural backgrounds to act as a bridge between refugee background communities and the health system.

The Group of 11

Each member is engaged as a consultant for 8 hours a month. They have professional and community commitments, have come to Australia from refugee backgrounds and have qualifications and experience in the health sector.

The current group include members from:

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Syria
- Rwanda
- Eritrea
- South Sudan
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Somalia
- Myanmar including Rohingya

The group changes to reflect the countries of origin settling in Brisbane and Logan but is not exhaustive of all communities.

G11 Aims

The group aim to improve health outcomes for those who came to Australia as refugees. They do this by:

- Providing advice to clinicians, service providers and policymakers
- Supporting their communities to increase health literacy and access services through an innovative, community led, responsive model, based on trust.

The activities of the group support the aims of the [Refugee Health Policy and Action Plan 2022–2027](#)

Health Areas of concern for the Group

- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease prevention and intervention especially diabetes
- NDIS/Disability support
- Parenting discussion and support
- Women's and men's health
- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Neurodiversity and autism

Focus Areas of 2026

Research

- Participate in research such as QUT's *Championing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Voices: participatory health research priority setting with Queensland's multicultural communities*

Clinical Education

- Provide community perspectives in Refugee Health Clinical Advisory Group (RH-CAG) education events targeting statewide clinicians
- Deliver information at conferences, panels and events such as the Metro South Health Symposium 2026 and [ECHO](#) - *Supporting Multicultural Children and Youth* with Children's Health Queensland

Community Health Education

- Focus on dismantling some of the stigma that exists in the CALD community about mental health - through workshops and partnering with organisations
 - Co-design and share health system navigations information in Brisbane south via the [Health Literacy Project](#) which include delivering health system information at Multicultural Australia's Life Skills Program, with Community Hubs and in TAFEs

Be part of Advisory Groups

- Participate in [Advisory and Working Groups](#) that report to the Refugee Health Network Qld
 - Clinical Advisory Group
 - Mental Health Working Group
 - Oral Health Working Group

Impact on Policies, Systems, Services and Advocacy

- Work closely with government departments such as Queensland Health System Policy Branch, Women and Girls' Health Promotion Strategic Advisory Committee to provide a voice for refugee background communities
- Provide Input into creating and implementing statewide standards for demographic data collection that all health entities can follow, allowing for consistent availability of data.
- Resource stalls at events to raise awareness

Co-design resources

- Proactively reach out and respond to requests regarding health issues that affect communities such as information about developmental milestones for children and supports for parents
- Work with Queensland Health Strategic Communications Branch who will focus on health issues including the Persistent Pain resource being developed by Metro South Health

Public speaking at events

- Proactively reach out to and respond to requests to showcase the community engagement model of the Refugee Health Advisory Group in various forums.
- Expose the Lived Experience workforce sector to the CALD community through outreach, workshops and education to sectors and organisations

More Information

[Refugee Health Advisory Group](#) or contact ally.wakefield@mater.org.au