

Refugee Health Partnership Advisory Group Queensland (RH PAGQ)

Meeting Summary

Date: 20th May 2026
Location: Online
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About RH PAGQ

The Refugee Health Partnership Advisory Group Queensland (RH PAGQ) is a statewide forum that brings together stakeholders from health services, government, settlement services, community organisations and refugee communities to support implementation of the Queensland Refugee Health and Wellbeing Policy and Action Plan 2022–2027. The group meet quarterly to promotes collaboration, information sharing and system improvement to support equitable, culturally responsive healthcare for people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

Meeting Overview

The RH PAGQ met on 20 May 2026 and discussed key developments affecting refugee and multicultural health across Queensland. Members shared updates on service access, settlement trends, primary care initiatives, multicultural mental health reform, oral health promotion and emerging policy and funding issues. The meeting also provided an opportunity to consider the implications of the cuts to the PHN Multicultural Access Program funding and to identify coordinated responses that support continuity of care, system integration and equitable access to health services for refugee and multicultural communities.

Key Updates

Health System Reform and Multicultural Access Program

Members discussed the discontinuation of the Multicultural Access Program and its potential impacts on locally commissioned initiatives that support multicultural communities to access primary care, navigation, early intervention and culturally responsive health services. Discussion highlighted the need for both short-term mitigation strategies and longer-term system reform so that refugee and multicultural health is embedded within mainstream service planning, commissioning and policy development

Primary Care, Service Navigation and Commissioning

Updates were shared from Primary Health Networks on local responses to funding changes, including efforts to maintain essential refugee health outreach and navigation activities where possible. Members noted examples of work continuing through mainstream commissioning, quality improvement, integrated care, centre-based models, and population health planning. The importance of co-commissioning, joined-up planning and stronger data collection to inform service design was also highlighted

Virtual Emergency Care and Medical Escort Pathways

Members received an update on the Virtual Emergency Care Service and Medical Escort handover pathway. The pathway is now live for Mater and the Virtual Emergency Care Service, with work continuing to explore local adaptation for other refugee health services across Queensland.

Immunisation, Communicable Diseases and Public Health Engagement

Members discussed opportunities to strengthen engagement with multicultural communities around influenza vaccination and other communicable disease priorities. Queensland Health updates noted a focus on multicultural community engagement and the role of advisory mechanisms in informing public health priorities. Members also briefly discussed emerging communicable disease concerns and the importance of timely information sharing across settlement, primary care, and public health systems.

Settlement and Community Updates

Members received updates on settlement trends and emerging issues affecting newly arrived communities. Discussion focused on the importance of responsive services, strong partnerships and coordinated approaches to supporting the health and wellbeing of refugee and asylum seeker populations.

Multicultural Mental Health Reform

Updates were provided on the Multicultural Mental Health Working Group, including recent workshop activity bringing together stakeholders from across the sector and community to identify challenges, service model opportunities and reform priorities. Members also noted representation of multicultural mental health perspectives at an upcoming Queensland Mental Health Reform Summit, including discussions on system reform and child and youth mental health

Community Partnerships and Workforce Development

Members shared examples of collaborative initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and workforce development activities occurring across Queensland. The value of shared learning, partnership approaches and community engagement in improving health outcomes was highlighted.

Emerging Issues and System Improvement

The group discussed emerging issues affecting refugee and multicultural communities, including healthcare access, service sustainability, and changing settlement patterns. Members shared perspectives on how collaboration, evidence, and innovation can contribute to future planning and continuous improvement across the sector.

Areas of Focus

Consistent with the objectives of the Queensland Refugee Health and Wellbeing Policy and Action Plan, members highlighted the importance of:

- Supporting equitable access to timely and culturally responsive healthcare.
- Strengthening collaboration between health, settlement, and community sectors.
- Supporting service sustainability and system improvement.
- Sharing evidence, innovation, and examples of good practice.
- Building workforce capability and supporting sector-wide learning.
- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes for people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

Next Meeting:

The next RH PAGQ meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 August 2026.