

Meeting Summary

Date: 19th August 2026
Location: Online
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Key Updates

Settlement and Service Planning

Members received an update on recent humanitarian settlement trends across Queensland. Between May and July 2026, 385 new arrivals settled across Queensland, with the largest numbers settling in Logan (136) and Brisbane (100), followed by Toowoomba (47), Townsville (44), the Gold Coast (33) and Cairns (25). Members noted the diverse cultural backgrounds represented among new arrivals, with the largest cohorts originating from Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria and South Sudan. Discussion highlighted the importance of aligning settlement planning with workforce and health service planning to support responsive, sustainable and culturally appropriate services, as well as community capacity to welcome and support new arrivals across the state.

Multicultural Access and Primary Care

Updates were provided by all five Primary Health Networks (Brisbane South, Brisbane North, Gold Coast, West Moreton and Darling Downs and North Qld) regarding transition arrangements following the conclusion of Multicultural Access Program funding. Members noted both the challenges associated with the loss of short-term funding streams and examples of innovative local approaches to finding alternative funding sources as well as seeking to embed refugee and multicultural health priorities within broader service planning and commissioning frameworks.

Interpreter Services and Communication Access

Members reviewed emerging data relating to use of the Free Interpreting Service and discussed opportunities to better understand patterns of utilisation across professions, regions and communities. Ongoing analysis of the data is required to better understand if there is a chronic under utilisation of interpreters across primary care. Discussion reinforced the importance of effective communication, interpreter access and culturally responsive care as key enablers of equitable health outcomes.

Communicable Diseases and Public Health Preparedness

Queensland Health provided updates on communicable disease initiatives, including preparedness planning, multilingual resources and community engagement activities. Members discussed the importance of coordinated approaches across public health, settlement, and healthcare sectors to support timely information sharing and culturally appropriate responses to emerging public health priorities.

Multicultural Mental Health

Updates were shared regarding ongoing multicultural mental health reform activities, including collaborative work to improve care pathways, strengthen service integration and enhance access to culturally responsive mental health services. Members highlighted the importance of collaboration between primary care, specialist services and community organisations to improve continuity of care and system navigation.

Community Partnerships and Lived Experience

The group welcomed two new members to the [Refugee Health Advisory Group](#) from the Congolese community and highlighted the value of lived experience perspectives in informing policy, service planning, research and community engagement. Members reaffirmed the importance of meaningful partnership with refugee and multicultural communities in shaping health system responses and improving health outcomes.

National Advocacy and System Reform

Members discussed a range of state and national advocacy initiatives, including emerging opportunities linked to health system reform, integrated care models and strengthening recognition of refugee and multicultural health priorities within mainstream planning and policy frameworks. The group also acknowledged recent advocacy achievements that support greater visibility of refugee and multicultural health issues within the broader healthcare sector.

Areas of Focus

Consistent with the objectives of the Queensland Refugee Health and Wellbeing Policy and Action Plan 2022-2027, members highlighted the importance of:

- Promoting health equity and culturally safe, responsive healthcare.
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration across health, settlement and community sectors.
- Supporting sustainable and adaptable models of care that respond to changing settlement patterns and community needs.
- Building workforce capability through education, training, and shared learning.
- Supporting research, quality improvement, and evidence-informed practice.
- Identifying emerging issues and opportunities for policy development, advocacy and system reform.
- Ensuring community voices and lived experience informs planning, service design and decision-making.

Next Meeting

The next RH PAGQ meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 November 2026 and will be offered as a hybrid meeting with both in-person and online participation options.

[The Refugee Health Partnership Advisory Group Queensland](#) acknowledges the contributions of members and partner organisations working collaboratively to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds across Queensland.