

26 January 2024

Dear colleagues,

This letter is to provide information on the Immigrant health clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital. Our clinic sees a wide variety of paediatric patients of refugee/asylum seeker background, and we are keen to work with referring teams. Our team includes four consultant paediatricians, two fellows, a clinic coordinator, dental therapist, social worker, psychiatrist, and senior mental health social worker.

We are happy to see any child or young person (0-18 years) of refugee/asylum seeker background who requires paediatric review. This includes children born overseas and children born in Australia to families who arrived as refugees/seeking asylum. Our service is free of charge, including for children without Medicare. We can provide full post-arrival health screening and catch-up immunisations as needed (GPs can still claim the Refugee Health Assessment item numbers). We work closely with other paediatric refugee health clinics in Victoria and will always try to support local care.

Based on our clinical experience, we think the following always warrant paediatric review (and should be referred):

- Age assessment/clarification of birthdate
- Unaccompanied minors or orphan relative visa holders
- Developmental delay or disability
- Complex medical issues, including malnutrition
- Offshore detention, or prolonged Immigration detention

Changes to Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS - the program supporting asylum seekers as their immigration status is resolved) mean asylum seeker children may lose income support, case management and access to services. We are happy to be involved in care for these families and assist in ensuring they are linked with supports.

In addition to clinical services, we are happy to be contacted for general advice or specific queries by email or directly (details below) Our website (<https://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/>) has clinical guidelines and other information on paediatric refugee and asylum seeker health.

Sincerely,

**Immigrant Health Team:**

Georgie, Andrea, Shidan, Hamish (Paediatricians)

Elliot and Amy (Fellows 2024)

Tiba (Psychiatrist) and Tasha (Mental health social worker)

Natale (Clinic coordinator), Tatiana (Dental therapist), Sarah (Social worker)

**Immigrant Health Service**

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