



Immigrant health service 2015

Department of General Medicine

Background

2015 saw further changes in Australian policy related to refugees and asylum seekers, with significant impact on our patients, clinical service delivery and broader work within Immigrant Health. Our focus throughout the year has been on clinical care, education, capacity building, research and policy work to promote the health of refugee and asylum seeker children and families.

During 2014-2015 the most frequent source countries for refugees and asylum seekers to Australia were:

- **Offshore program** – Iraq, Syria, Burma (Myanmar), Afghanistan, Congo (DRC)
- **People in held detention** – Iran, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, 'Stateless'¹
- **People in community detention** – Iran, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and 'Stateless'¹

Key policy changes influencing our work through 2015 included:

- Large-scale releases from immigration detention over December 2014 – February 2015
- The release of the Australian Human Rights Commission report *The Forgotten Children: National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention*, the March 2015 Moss Inquiry into allegations on conditions and circumstances on Nauru and its subsequent Senate Inquiry Report in August 2015.
- Restructuring of allocated casework agencies and structures through early 2015
- A shift to seeing children in detention who are in Australia from Nauru
- Difficulties with child protection pathways over May – August 2015
- The Australian Border Force Act commencing July 2015
- Planning for the intake of 12000 Syrian refugees announced in September 2015

We continue to provide care for children and their families who have spent extremely long periods in detention, including those who have been detained on Nauru, and have increasingly felt the impact of the delays in processing asylum seeker claims. Asylum seeker families have now been in Australia for years without their protection claims being assessed. Clinically, these have been the most complex children seen we have seen in the Immigrant Health Service over the past decade, and we have witnessed the deleterious effects of prolonged detention on their mental health, development, and family relationships.

Key clinical areas overall include disability and child development, and also mental health concerns. We look forward to working with the Syrian cohorts and renewing our focus on health screening and immunisation in the months to come.

We remain heavily involved in refugee and asylum seeker policy and advice at local, state and Commonwealth levels, including through the Victorian Refugee Health Network (VRHN) and advisory committees.

¹ 'Stateless' refers to lacking identity as a national of a country under relevant law

Key Achievements in 2015

Clinical care

- **1336 episodes of clinical contact for 685 patients and over 100 clinical consultations** across RCH Immigrant Health, RCH Tuberculosis Clinic, CoHealth West Footscray, and EACH (Ringwood)
 - Ongoing fortnightly secondary mental health/education consultation

Education

- **41 education sessions to more than 2000 people**
 - 23 external presentations, 18 internal presentations (GP, KK, KS)
 - 7 conference presentations
- **2 new clinical guidelines** (Syrian refugees and Developmental assessment)
- **Ongoing website updates** – policy timeline, translated resources, asylum seekers
- **'Talk bank'** – presentations by Immigrant Health team available on website (GP, KK)

Research

- **6 peer reviewed publications,**
- 1 book chapter, contribution to 3 posters
- **New research** – systematic review of post-arrival screening prevalence data, audit of immunisations in asylum seeker children (ACIR)
- **Refugee research clearing house** updated May 2015 – 170 new articles added

Policy

- **RACP Policy and Position statements** (launched May 2015)
- **Contribution to ASID/RHeaNA refugee and asylum seeker health screening guidelines** – sections: Vitamin D, Immunisation, Skin infections, Prevalence and also editing and review
- **Contribution to planning for the Syrian intake** - offshore screening (Department of Immigration and Border Protection), health response (via Refugee Resettlement Advisory Committee) and Victorian sector planning, local liaison with Northern region health services
- Inclusion of **refugee/asylum seeker identification question on SEHQ** - School Entry Health Questionnaire
- **Immunisation Working Group** – VRHN (GP as Chair, KK)

Reference groups, advisory roles, committees

- **Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention**, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (GP)
- **Health Sub-committee of the Joint Advisory Committee** on Nauru Regional Processing Arrangements (GP)
- **Commission for Children and Young People**, Victoria: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (Victorian Government) (GP)
- **Victorian Refugee Health Network** (VRHN) (GP, finished as Chair 2015, KK)
- **Northern Refugee Health Network** (KK)

Awards

- **IPAA Public Sector Award (winner)** – Service Delivery, Refugee Clinical Hub

Service model

The Immigrant Health Service includes a weekly outpatient clinic, inpatient and outpatient consultations, and telephone and email advice. The clinic provides post-arrival health (including dental) screening and immunisation catch-up where needed, and a tertiary consultation service on paediatric refugee health issues.

Our clinic model includes the use of the CAREHR electronic health record, integrated use of interpreting services, picture-based prescribing where needed, contact with schools by the team's resident teacher, and fortnightly audit meetings alternating with fortnightly mental health secondary consult meetings for children with significant mental health problems.

The Immigrant Health Service effectively provides specialist paediatric refugee health services in the west (CoHealth Joslin clinic in West Footscray) and in the east with the establishment of an outreach clinic through EACH Community Health Service in Ringwood in late 2014. Discussion is currently underway to establish a similar service in the northern suburbs, while Monash Health provides care in the southeast. The Immigrant Health Fellows also work in the fortnightly RCH tuberculosis clinic.

Staff

The Immigrant Health team now consists of four consultants, with transition of the 2014 fellows into consultant roles within the service. Consultant staff: Dr Georgie Paxton, Dr Andrea Smith, Dr Hamish Graham, and Dr Shidan Tosif. Dr Karen Kiang was the 2015 Immigrant Health Fellow and will continue in this role through 2016, providing immediate capacity with education and support with the expected Syrian intake.

Position	Staff member	EFT
Clinic coordinator	Helen Milton	0.4
Medical lead	Georgie Paxton GP	0.4
Consultants	Georgie Paxton Andrea Smith AS Hamish Graham HG Shidan Tosif ST	
Fellow	Karen Kiang KK	0.5 (+ 0.1 WRHC)
Dental therapist	Tatiana Polizzi	0.1
Community worker	Nagaha Idris	0.05
Research nurse	Katrina Sangster	0.2
Teacher	Lauren Sayer	
Volunteers	Kirsten Gordon Yolanda Majano Sylvie Bui Hoang Jenny Kendrick Yasmin Abubaker	Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer

Affiliated services

- **RCH tuberculosis clinic:** Dr Hamish Graham/Dr Shidan Tosif/ Dr Karen Kiang
- **Cohealth,** West Footscray Dr Karen Kiang/Dr David Tickell/Dr Jane Standish/Dr Kirsty Walsh
- **EACH Social and Community Health,** Ringwood East: Dr Georgia Paxton/Dr Shidan Tosif
- **Darebin Community Health Centre:** Dr Anthea Rhodes
- **Craigieburn Community Health Centre:** Dr Jolene Fraser
- **Dandenong Hospital Refugee Health Clinic:** Dr Danni Bao

Key points - demographics

In total we have provided at least 1336 direct clinical care episodes to over 685 patients in 2015.

- RCH Immigrant Health Clinic – 761 consultations, 327 patients including 112 new patients (KK, GP, AS, ST, HG)
- RCH Tuberculosis Clinic – 221 consultations, approximately 125 patients (KK, HG, ST)
- Joslin Clinic – Cohealth – 262 consultations, 176 patients (KK)
- EACH outreach clinic – 92 consultations, more than 55 patients (ST, GP)

Clinic	Patients - fellow	Patients - consultants
RCH IH Clinic	188	573 (GP, AS, ST, HG)
RCH TB Clinic	58	163 (HG, ST)
Joslin Clinic CoHealth	262	-
EACH outreach clinic	-	92 (GP, ST)
<i>Total</i>		<i>1336</i>

- **Clinic attendance rates were 87%** (761 attendances of 878 bookings)
- We saw children and young people from **28 countries of birth**, most commonly Iran, Burma, Ethiopia, Iraq, Sudan, and Thailand, and Australian-born children from refugee background families
- We saw families speaking **33 languages**, most commonly Arabic, Farsi, Burmese languages (Karen, Chin dialects, Burmese), Rohingya, Somali, Dinka, Oromo, Amharic, and Tigrinya
- **Interpreters were required for 85% of consultations**, interpreting service use has continued to increase, from 80% in 2014 and 68% in 2013.

Other clinical activities

In total, we have provided more than 100 additional clinical consultations to date in 2015.

- Hospital inpatient consultations: 10 (KK, GP)
- Telephone and email consultations
 - Nurses (Refugee Health and schools): around 40 – with liaison
 - Medical practitioners (GPs, IHMS, and specialists) – around 30 with liaison
 - Case Managers (Settlement and Refugee Minor Program) – more than 10
- Care team meetings with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – around 10

Clinical care

A large proportion of our clinical care went towards asylum seeker children, and we saw increasingly complex health and mental health issues in both children and their parents. The number of children seen in Immigrant health clinic has reduced, due to markedly increased patient complexity, a shift to seeing individual children and increased need for interpreting assistance. Throughout the year we worked closely with our colleagues in mental health, the refugee health nurses, the settlement sector, and IHMS (International Health and Medical Services, contracted by DIBP to deliver healthcare to detainees) medical and nursing staff. Towards the end of 2015 we saw releases of asylum seeker children and their families from MITA (Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation) into community detention.

Mental health and education secondary consultation - the environment and increasing length of held detention were associated with significantly complex mental health issues. The secondary mental health consultations established in 2013 continued to be a vital source of support in 2015, with advice and input from Dr. Sanjay Patel from Psychiatry, and Dr. Rowena Conroy from psychology. The presence of Lauren Sayer, a lead teacher from the RCH Education Institute assisted significantly in following up issues related to education and schooling. We have seen increased access for our clients to Mental Health Services, and improved communication between the services.

Dental review and oral health promotion - Tatiana Polizzi the dental therapist with Immigrant Health team, has continued to see all new patients for assessment and oral health promotion, and link them with dental services where needed. This has been an essential service through 2015, as a large proportion of our patients have needed dental care.

Education/presentations

In 2015, we delivered 41 education sessions to approximately 2000 participants from health, education, and community organisations on a diverse range of topics. This figure includes 23 external presentations across metropolitan Melbourne and a program of ongoing education around working with CALD communities for RCH Volunteers and Nurses, delivered by our Katrina Sangster, who is also based at ISIS Hoppers Crossing in a refugee health nurse position.

Key education sessions and presentations included:

- **Educational package for refugee and asylum seeker caseworkers** on paediatric refugee health and access to child health services. A presentation and webpage of resources have been developed for caseworkers, and a talk that can be given by team leaders (also available on the webpage).
- **7 invited conference presentations**
 - **Forced Migration Conference**, Melbourne, February 2015 - 5 presentations (GP, HG)
 - **RACP Congress launch of the RACP Policy and Position Statement** on Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health (May 2015, GP),
 - **Deakin University Global Health Unzipped**, Geelong, August 2015 - refugee health, alongside Senator Richard Di Natale and Julian Burnside (GP)
- **Education on working with CALD families for RCH volunteers** (KS, delivered quarterly at induction of all new RCH volunteers)
- **Education for RCH nursing staff on working with CALD families, and working effectively with interpreters** (KS, delivered quarterly)
- **Medico-Legal partnerships forum**, Royal Women's Hospital, Parkville (GP, 70)
- **Participation in the VRHN caseworker training video** (ST)

Education sessions in 2015 included:

27/1/15	Caring for CALD families - RCH volunteer induction training (KS, 25)
29/1/15	CAMHS intake, RCH (GP, ST, 7)
11/2/15	MPH lecture, Burnet Institute (GP, 25)
23/2/15	Life without Barriers caseworkers, Footscray (GP, KK, 50)
4/3/15	Northern Hospital women and children's social workers, Epping (KK, 15)
6/3/15	English as an Additional Language conference workshop, Flemington (GP, 15)

21/3/15	Medico-Legal partnerships forum, Royal Women's Hospital, Parkville (GP, 70)
25/3/15	Emergency Medicine Trainees, St. Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy (GP, 70)
25/3/15	SEMML Early Childhood sector, Dandenong (GP, 110)
27/3/15	CAMHS staff PD, Travencore (GP, 60)
30/4/15	Caring for CALD families, RCH volunteers service (Katrina Sangster, 25)
21/5/15	Waterwell volunteer induction, Melbourne (KK, 70)
27/5/15	CCCH, refugee health, RCH (KK, 25)
3/6/15	CCCH, English as an additional language, RCH (GP, 25)
7/6/15	Health and Human Rights, MPH, University of Melbourne (KK, 25)
12/6/15	Migration screening, General Medicine Friday meeting, RCH (GP, 30)
29/6/15	Gatehouse Centre staff, RCH (GP, 5)
15/7/15	Caring for CALD families and working effectively with interpreters, Graduate Nurse program (KS, 26)
16/7/15	Caring for CALD families, RCH volunteers service (KS, 25)
7/8/15	Travel medicine and FGM, General Medicine Friday meeting, RCH (KK and GP, 40)
12/08/15	Caring for CALD families and working effectively with interpreters, Graduate Nurse program, RCH (KS, 26)
20/8/15	Child refugee health, nursing and allied health training day, VRHN Brunswick (KK, 30)
20/8/15	Development, Nurse and allied health training day, VRHN Brunswick (GP, 30)
27/8/15	Caring for CALD families and refugee and asylum seeker health in the Australian context, Post-Graduate Nursing diploma (KS, 30)
24/9/15	Caring for CALD families – RCH volunteer service induction (KS, 45)
9/10/15	Maternal Child Health Nurse On-Call (KK, 25)
22/10/15	Junior Medical Staff, RCH (KK, 15)
4/11/15	VicFEAT, Melbourne RACP office (GP, 33 hospitals nationally, 200+)
6/11/15	Sunshine Hospital paediatric inpatient team, St. Albans (KK, 25)
12/11/15	Waterwell - volunteer induction program, Melbourne (KK, 70)
17/11/15	Caring for CALD families – RCH volunteer service induction (KS, 45)
27/11/15	RACGP - GP trainees, Kew (KK)
30/11/15	Caring for CALD families and working effectively with interpreters – self-management for CALD families. Collaboration between CoHealth, ISIS, Djerriwah, RDNS (KS)

Capacity building

Linking with other services – RCH coordinated the revision of the 'Letter of Introduction' in collaboration with all refugee health fellows for circulation through the Primary Health Networks, and have extended connections to Western and Northern region health services. In the final quarter of 2015, a large burst of capacity-building and resource-mapping activities took place in the Northern region in preparation for the large Syrian refugee intake anticipated in 2016.

Clinical consultations – are an ongoing means of building connections to other services - as above.

Workforce development - our website now includes contact details for the **12 paediatric** refugee clinics across Victoria. We are proud of the fact the majority of these services are run by paediatricians who have worked within or in association with the RCH Immigrant

health service – the Victorian Government support for the Refugee Fellows program and our structure of training new fellows every year has built significant workforce capacity. See: http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/Caseworker_Resources/#Resources

Research

Updated Refugee Research Clearing House (KK, GP) – 170 new articles added (see also Website development). See: http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/research/Research_resources/

Peer reviewed publications

Paxton G, Tosif S, Graham H, Smith A, Reveley C, Standish J, et al. Perspective: 'The forgotten children: National Inquiry into children in immigration detention (2014). *J Paediatr Child Health*. 2015 Apr; 51(4):365-8.

Colucci E, Minas H, Szwarc J, Guerra C, **Paxton G**. In or out? Barriers and facilitators to refugee- background young people accessing mental health services. *Trancult Psychiatry*. 2015 Mar 2.

Quach A, Laemmle-Ruff I, **Polizzi T, Paxton G**. Gaps in smiles and services: a cross-sectional study of dental caries in refugee-background children. *BMC Oral Health*. 2015; 15:10.

Paxton G, Cherian S, Zwi K. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians position statement on refugee and asylum seeker health. *Med J Aust*. 2015 Aug 17; 203(4):176-7.

Zwi K, **Paxton G**, Cherian S, Francis J, Smith M, Naphthali K, Johnston V, Voss L, Ofner E, Talley N. Summary of position statement on refugee and asylum-seeker health. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2015 Jul; 51(7):657.

Graham H, Minhas RS, **Paxton G**. Learning problems in children of refugee background – a systematic scoping review. Accepted into *Pediatrics*, December 2015.

Sangster K, Drewe R, **Paxton G**. TB screening in Karen Refugees - draft now finalised.

Posters

Chaves N, **Paxton G**, Smith M, Gardiner J, Biggs BA, Davis J. Revising the 2009 Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases guidelines for diagnosis, management and prevention of infections in newly arrived refugees – not only infections and not only refugees. *RACP Congress*. May 2015.

Chaves N, McGrath C, Biggs BA, **Paxton G**. Approaches to management of refugees from Ebola affected areas. *RACP Congress*. May 2015.

Schulz T, Lohrey J, Hibbert M, **Paxton G** and Biggs BA. Enhancing HIV and Hepatitis B patient management solutions using purpose built software solutions. *Australia Society of HIV and Hepatitis Medicine Conference*. September 2015.

Book chapters

Paxton G. Immigrant health. In: Gwee A, Rimer R, Marks M (Eds) *Paediatric handbook*, 9th edition, Wiley Blackwell, 2015

Ongoing research

Systematic review of the prevalence of conditions in post-arrival refugee health screening – completed as part of the health screening guideline revision, will be extended into an academic publication (KK, GP).

Audit of Australia Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) data of asylum seeker children in held detention (KK, GP). Ethics approval obtained October 2015.

Steering groups

Building the evidence: Responding to the needs of recently arrived refugee and asylum seeker populations (Department of Health and Human Services, North West Region, based at University of Melbourne) (GP)

Meetings and Committees

In addition to our regular clinical meetings (below) we have attended or convened over 40 meetings with partner or community organizations to discuss better service delivery, collaborations, policy issues and other aspects of refugee and asylum seeker health. Our current focus of work is to extend our connections to Western region health services (including Sunshine Hospital) and Northern region health services (including Dianella Community Health, Plenty Valley Community Health, and Northern Hospital).

Regular clinical meetings

- Weekly supervision meetings with fellow
- Weekly clinical audit meeting
- Fortnightly meetings with RCH Integrated Mental Health and RCH teacher as secondary consultation
- Quarterly meetings to improve CALD Mental Health
- Quarterly meetings Victorian Refugee Health Network (VRHN) Reference Group

Committees, reference groups and working groups

- **MCASD – Minister’s Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention**, DIBP, May 2015 – ongoing (GP, 3-year term)
- **Health Sub-Committee to the Joint Advisory Committee for Nauru Regional Processing Arrangements**, DIBP, December 2013 – ongoing (GP)
- **Commission for Children and Young People, Victoria: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Strategic Planning Advisory Committee** (Victorian Government), Mar 2014 – ongoing (GP)
- **Victorian Refugee Health Network** (VRHN) Reference Group (GP, finished as Chair May 2015, KK)
- **Immunisation Working Group** – VRHN (GP as Chair, KK)
- **Refugee Health Network of Australia** (GP)
- **RCH Cultural Diversity Committee** (GP, KS)
- **RCH Cultural Diversity in Mental Health Committee** (KK)
- **Data working group** - Victorian Settlement Planning Outcomes Committee (GP) – data working group.

Other key meetings

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 4/2/15 | Building the evidence – steering group meeting (GP) |
| 10/2/15 | RHEANA Face to Face meeting (GP) – <i>ongoing bimonthly teleconferences</i> |
| 18/2/15 | Red Cross – Child Development protocols for case workers |

2/3/15	CALD Mental Health reference group (KK) – <i>quarterly (15/6/15, 9/7/15, 7/12/15)</i>
5/3/15	VRHN Reference Group (GP, KK) – <i>quarterly (21/5/15, 13/8/15, 12/11/15)</i>
20/3/15	Foundation House detention intake co-ordinator (GP, KK)
27/3/15	Mental Health Round Table, University of Melbourne (GP)
13/4/15	Foundation House detention intake coordinator (GP)
15/4/15	VRHN and DHHS – TST availability (GP, KK)
4/5/15	DHHS Refugee Health Fellow meeting, Melbourne (KK, GP)
4/5/15	Lynda Gyorki, Inner Melbourne Community Legal (KK, GP)
5/5/15	Biola Araba, Senior Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health RCH (KK)
11/5/15	Stephanie Johnson, Brotherhood of St. Laurence
20/7/15	RCH Clinical Ethics service – children in detention
27/5/15	Laura Ribarow, South Western Melbourne Medicare Local (KK)
31/7/15	RCH Executive – Children in Detention
14/8/15	RCH Radiology administration (KK, GP)
4/9/15	VRHN Immunisation report overview DHHS (GP)
17/9/15	Round table Asylum seeker health hub (GP)
30/9/15	Offshore health screening Syrian intake – Commonwealth DIBP/DoH, Clinicians (GP)
13/10/15	Planning Syrian and Iraqi Refugee Intake (GP)
13/10/15	Refugee Resettlement Advisory Committee Health and Mental Health Working Group
22/10/15	Victorian Refugee Health Network Immunisation Working Group (GP, KK)
28/10/15	RCH Board (Dr Tom Connell, ST)
6/11/15	OMAC – Unaccompanied minors – in follow-up to Victorian planning responses
6/11/15	Sunshine Hospital paediatric team
9/11/15	DHHS Refugee Health Fellow meeting, Melbourne (KK, GP)
10/11/15	VSPOC data group – initial meeting
11/11/15	Northern Hospital paediatric team (KK, GP)
24/11/15	DHHS and northern community health groups (KK)
1/12/15	VRHN Immunisation Working Group (GP, KK)
15/12/15	Northern refugee health network (KK)

Policy work

RCH Immigrant Health has provided input into policy related to refugee and asylum seeker health in multiple areas – immunisation, tuberculosis screening, offshore health screening, onshore health screening, the response to the Syrian intake, data and ascertainment, and child protection.

Key contributions include:

ASID Refugee health screening guidelines – currently under revision – sections by RCH Immigrant Health (with co-authors): Vitamin D, Immunisation catch-up, Skin infections and Prevalence, contribution through editing work.

Communication with NTAC and TB working group Refugee Health Network – withdrawal of TST by commercial pathology providers, provision of Quantiferon for those of refugee/asylum seeker background.

Protocol for capturing refugee or asylum seeker status for the School Entry Health Questionnaire – in collaboration with Department of Education and Training – developed new screening question “Did you (the parent) arrive in Australia as a refugee or an asylum

seeker?" with answers: "No/Yes-refugee/Yes-asylum seeker", with associated workflow to capture children requiring health screening, and children with complex needs. This offers enormous possibilities to understand more about health and development for refugee background children in Victoria.

Immunisation – ongoing work arising from the Immunisation needs analysis (July 2014) also noting significant progress and support from Victorian Government in this area, and changes to the broader legislative and policy environment, including 'No Jab, No Pay' and 'No Jab, No Play'.

Child protection – complex discussions and communications between RCH Immigrant health, RCH Executive, Victorian Child Protection and DIBP Child Protection and Wellbeing Branch between May – August 2015.

Vulnerable children – ongoing contribution to the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) Strategic Planning Advisory Committee.

Contribution to **planning for the Syrian intake** - offshore screening (DIBP), health response (via Refugee Resettlement Advisory Committee) and Victorian sector planning.

RACP Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health Position and Policy Statements, May 2015. See: <https://members.racp.edu.au/page/asylum-seekers>

Website

New additions

- **Syrian refugees – key issues** (KK, GP)
<http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/syrian-refugees/>
- **Developmental assessment** (GP, ST)
<http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/developmental-assessment/>

Key updates

- **Translated resources** (KK)
http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/translated/Translated_resources/.
Significant resource of relevant translated information for refugee and broader CALD communities. Revised extensively April 2015
- **Refugee research clearing house** (KK)
http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/research/Research_resources/. A systematic collection of Australian refugee health-related research – updated and 170 new peer- reviewed articles added April 2015
- **Recent policy changes** (GP)
http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/Recent_policy_changes/
- **Asylum seekers** (GP)
http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/Asylum_seekers/
- **Paediatric refugee health services** (KK)
http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/Caseworker_Resources/
- **Talk bank** (Background information, information for caseworkers, Syrian refugees - background) <http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/talks/Talks/>
- **Australian Border Force** (KK) – updated all links to Australian Border Force websites, and detention and bridging visa data

Other

IPAA Public Sectors Award (winner) – Service delivery, Refugee Clinical Hub (Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Barwon Hospital, February 2015)

RCH media - Children in detention, 11 October 2015. Since the RCH Immigrant Health Grand Round in 2014, RCH staff have expressed increasing concern around children in detention, and there has been increased awareness of the work of the RCH Immigrant health service. This was evident in the hospital response to an email from the Senior Medical staff groups, circulated to junior medical, nursing and allied health staff providing an opportunity for staff to show concern around the health of children in detention. Immigrant health did not initiate or progress this activity, however the level of support was overwhelming. We are grateful to our colleagues, and to the broader support from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Subsequently, the RCH Facebook page had more than 1.4 million views, and there was widespread media coverage

Future Directions

- Expanding education provision – anticipated settlement of Syrian refugees
- Expanding regional education provision – anticipated changes related to Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV)
- Evaluation of Victorian administrative datasets in relation to Refugee and Asylum seeker health (GP, Sabbatical 2016 – Victorian Department of Education and Training)
- Health systems – patient satisfaction, interpreter access, length of stay, GP details
- Audit of completeness of refugee health screening/assessment prior to first clinic visit
- Audit of detained asylum seekers - health and mental health issues
- Refugee Health Matters newsletter – updated ASID refugee health screening guidelines and vitamin D update
- Ongoing work in the Refugee Clinical Hub project and evaluation of easidose (GP)
- Evaluation of Schistosoma management (VC, KK, GP)
- Resilience in Children – NHMRC grant – based at MCRI
- Framework for assessing refugee background children with learning issues – (GP, HG, ST, KK and collaboration with Dr Ida Kaplan and Dr Yvonne Stolk, Foundation House and Dr Rowena Conroy)
- Developing pathways for specialist assessment for all unaccompanied minors in Victoria (we remain determined!)

Contact – georgia.paxton@rch.org.au