Co-chairs: Sheenagh McShane & Jacquie McBride

Statewide meeting
Working group updates

• Disability Action Group – Natalie Henry
• Access to health services for people seeking asylum – Tracey Cabrie & Sarah Christensen
Sue Casey – General Manager Sector Development and Partnerships, Foundation House

DATA UPDATE
People who arrived in the past 6 months living in Victoria

• Data requested from the Settlement Database
• Arrived between 01/07/2018 and 04/01/2019
• 1,863 people arrived in Victoria through the Refugee and Humanitarian Program
• Slightly more females
## Country of birth: Top 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>Visa Numbers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
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<td>Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congo, the Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
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### LGA where people live: Top 15

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<tr>
<th>Local Government Area</th>
<th>Visa Numbers</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Hume (C)</td>
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<td>Maroondah (C)</td>
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<td>Wyndham (C)</td>
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<td>Yarra Ranges (S)</td>
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<td>Greater Dandenong (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casey (C)</td>
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<td>Melton (S)</td>
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<td>Wodonga (RC)</td>
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<td>Greater Shepparton (C)</td>
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<td>Mildura (RC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darebin (C)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

19% of arrivals during this period have settled in rural and regional areas.
People seeking asylum

• Increasing numbers of people arriving by plane
  – ~28,000 PPV applications in financial year 2017-18 up from 18,290 in financial year 2016-17
  – Top nationalities continue to be Malaysia and China

• Boat arrivals
  – At the end of 2018, 7,011 people seeking asylum who arrived by boat prior to 2014 lived in Victoria on a Bridging Visa E (BVE)
TPV and SHEV holders

- 4,709 temporary protection visas (SHEV and TPV) granted to people living in Victoria
- 5,131 people awaiting an outcome of their application
- Data about LGA of residence is not readily available
Sue Casey – General Manager Sector Development and Partnerships, Foundation House

POLICY UPDATE
Policy update

• Implications of state election
  – New ministers for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
  – Jenny Mikakos: Health, Ambulances
  – Martin Foley: Mental Health
  – Richard Wynne: Housing
  – Gabrielle Williams: Prevention of Family Violence, Women, Youth
– Fairer Victoria established, Department of Premier and Cabinet.
– Election commitment of progressive implementation of 3 year old kinda
  • ‘Medivac’ legislation
  • Royal Commission into Mental Health
  • Immunisation – ‘no jab, no pay’ reminder….
CLINICAL SERVICES UPDATE
North
- SHC has screened 88 HAPlite reports
- 4 Critical and Potential Medical Issues as alerted by DSS on HSP (Humanitarian Settlement Program)
- 4 Health undertakings and health waivers as alerted by DSS
- There were 31 clients that were required to be seen within 2 weeks of arrival secondary to chronic or acute health issues

West
- Pre-screened 184 HSP arrivals via HAP since start of 2019, half of that number have arrived
- Myanmar, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iraq, Syria, Tibet, Bhutan
- 9 Critical or Potential Medical Alerts arrived this year
- 68 health issues identified – 40 not alerted by the HSP system, no mental ill-health or dental problems (dental not a question on the HAP) identified as a concern in pre-screen
- Lot of vision problems, cardiac issues and infectious disease (HIV)
- Similar numbers of 200 and 202 visas
North

• AMES only received 30% of their intake for this financial year. Remainder to arrive before June.

• Families released from Nauru (band 3 clients) – SHC North & West have seen 9 families since December 2018 (only seeing families that Case Managers inform them about).
West

- Families released from Nauru with severe physical and mental health issues, often have legal support but poor communication between providers has caused delay in community health coordinating care.
- Clients coming off SRSS with complex needs living in suburbs far from services who can support them financially – especially Tarneit & Brookfield.
West

• Community Health GPs report that some private GPs (normally from the same country as the client) are advising clients to stop taking medication for Latent TB

• Private GPs unwilling to state people have been exposed to TB in refugee camps, clients being charged for Quantiferon tests approx. $60/person
Settlement Health Coordinators update cont…

West

• Problems continue with catch up immunisations
• Interstate transfers, mainly from Tasmania, pattern of the same community group transferring
• Receiving a lot of clients moving after short term accommodation of 1 month has finished, problems with GP billing the RHA in the first month and then clients moving to longer term GP, however RHA already billed in the first month
Settlement Health Coordinators
clinical update cont…

West

• Shortage of Karen and Karenni interpreters at Western Health
• Domestic violence and precarious housing
• River Nile has been very welcoming of more and more students within settlement – Women 16+, child care facilities available
West (cohealth)

- Homelessness
  - 25 families at risk of homelessness in early settlement in 2018
- Bicultural interns starting community based projects in areas:
  - Parenting / intergenerational conflict
  - Health literacy
  - Maternal and child health
  - Men’s inclusion
- Promoting mental health in elders in Karen community
Clinical services update

South East (Monash Health)

• HSS arrivals picking up
  – typically large families with complex health needs from Afghanistan, Burma and parts of Africa
• Interstate transfers – steady flow
• Asylum seekers – released from Nauru
• Post merits review clients and plane arrivals requiring additional support
Clinical services update

**South East (Monash Health)**

- TPV/SHEV holders requiring disability support services
- PSAAR active and consortium in place
- Enliven priority – mental health
- Suicide prevention / post-vention protocol
Clinical services update

South East (Monash Health)

• OPTIMISE – training completed for education sector

• Progressing resources to address clinical needs of children and young people with a focus on mental health
Clinical services update

South East (Monash Health)

• Large numbers of children with significant disability
• HIV and rickets
• 10-14yos with significant mental health problems requiring psychiatric intervention
Clinical services update

Children and adolescents (RCH)

• Settlement data calendar year 2018 - 3700 offshore humanitarian entrants to Victoria, 1408 (38%) aged < 18 years
  – additional 97 orphan relative visa entrants aged < 18 years
  – less than 5 PPV (866) visa grants to children < 18 years
Clinical services update

Children and adolescents (RCH)

• Starting to see processing of legacy caseload
  – starting to see negative decisions
  – significant stress for families

• Nauru caseload
  – relief that all children and families off Nauru, late 2018 - children and families spent time in detention, weeks - months, improved after release to CD, and improved further with starting school.
Clinical services update

Children and adolescents (RCH)

• Screening - an ongoing challenge
  – Few children have completed screening

• Immunisation catch-up challenging
  – Refugee immunisation projects ongoing, baseline data in the North suggests catch-up substantial issue (61% 0-10yr olds and 36% of 11-19 yr olds) - this will be affecting baseline family assistance payments
Clinical services update

Children and adolescents (RCH)

• Complex medical issues frequent
  – neurodevelopmental disorders

• Access to NDIS remains challenging
  – esp in the West (across all ages) and ECIS in the North - delays of months to get planning meetings after NDIS approved.
Clinical services update

Children and adolescents (RCH)

• Close work with settlement coordinators, limited contact with RHP - ask that complex children be considered for referral.

• Hospital circular needed urgently
Clinical services update

People seeking asylum (ASRC)

- Homelessness
- SRSS
  - Plane arrivals with work rights not eligible
  - People with negative decision at AAT may be cut off SRSS
  - Clients with significant physical/mental health cut off SRSS – difficulty finding employment
Clinical services update

People seeking asylum (ASRC)

- Clients enquiring re Immicards
  - required for employment
- Women experiencing domestic violence and unable to access DV crisis services
- Increase in LGBTQ clients presenting
  - Often with higher support needs due to particular vulnerabilities and trauma
Clinical services update

East (EACH)

• Referrals to EACH Refugee Health program 2018

(1/1/18 to 24/12/18, N = 659)
East (EACH)

- Language groups of people referred 2018

Interpreter requirements of refugees and asylum seekers referred to the EACH RH program in 2018 (1/1 - 6/12, N = 599)
Clinical services update

**East (EACH)**

- Significant rise in referrals from 294 in 2017 to 659 (to 6/12) in 2018
- Increase in people arriving on Global Special Humanitarian visa 202: People joining families/other proposer
- Increase in incidents of family violence and numbers of children with mild/mod malnutrition & developmental delay (ie speech etc)- referrals to RCH.
- Ongoing issues:
  - latent TB
  - mental health inc torture & trauma
  - use of alcohol & substance abuse
  - dental decay
  - inadequate vaccination
  - chronic illness in older arrivals
  - low vitamin D
  - vision and hearing issues
  - no Cervical Screening testing
  - minimal access to contraception
Clinical services update

East (EACH)

Program update:
• Eastern Region Refugee Health Network (Quarterly meetings- two new church Pastors)
• Haplite
• Pilot parenting program
• Antenatal education/hospital tours with Eastern Health
• Sessions/workshops/seminars with: MCH, schools, community health, Migrant Information Centre, Deakin and Swinburne Universities

Topics:
Women’s health, immunisations, childhood illnesses, refugee health, family violence