



victorian refugee
health network

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



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Sue Casey – General Manager Sector Development
and Partnerships, Foundation House

DATA UPDATE



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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

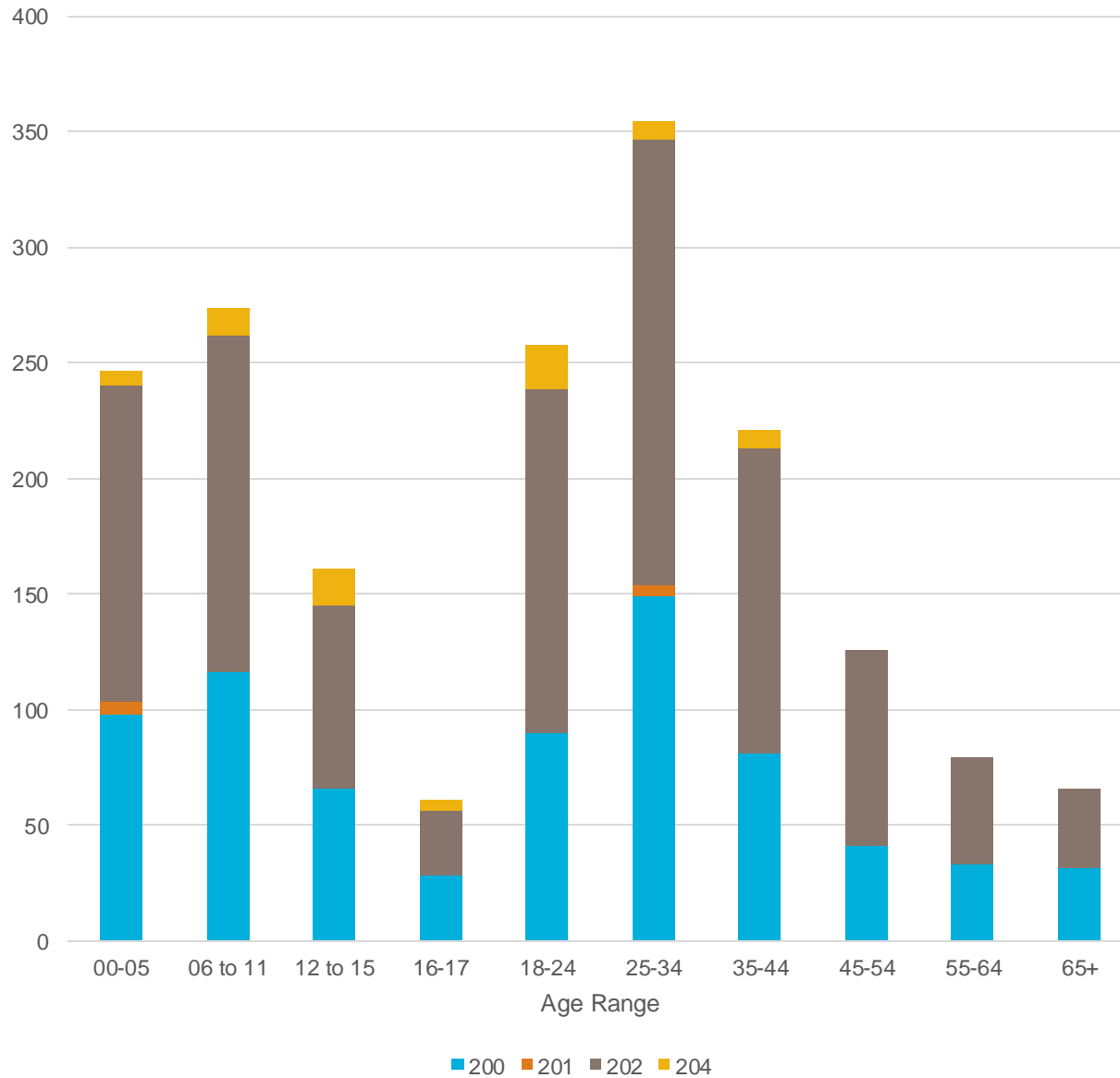


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Country of birth: Top 10

Country of Birth	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Myanmar	94	0	388	5	487
Iraq	159	0	205	<5	<369
Syria	101	0	101	5	207
Thailand	38	0	110	<5	<153
Congo, the Democratic Republic	105	0	5	23	133
Afghanistan	67	13	35	<5	<120
Eritrea	<5	0	39	7	<51
India	<5	0	45	0	<50
Ethiopia	29	0	5	12	46
Malaysia	9	0	31	<5	<45

Age on arrival



LGA where people live: Top 15

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Hume (C)	149	5	229	5	388
Maroondah (C)	10	0	156	0	166
Brimbank (C)	68	0	82	9	159
Wyndham (C)	55	0	99	1	157
Greater Geelong (C)	81	0	24	10	115
Yarra Ranges (S)	13	0	95	0	108
Greater Dandenong (C)	51	8	41	6	106
Casey (C)	55	5	41	0	101
Melton (S)	37	0	29	4	70
Wodonga (RC)	44	0	0	25	69
Greater Shepparton (C)	48	0	5	9	62
Greater Bendigo (C)	4	0	57	0	61
Maribyrnong (C)	14	0	47	0	61
Mildura (RC)	40	0	0	0	40
Darebin (C)	16	0	16	5	37

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)



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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



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Sue Casey – General Manager Sector Development and Partnerships, Foundation House

POLICY UPDATE



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Policy update

- Implications of state election
 - New ministers for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - Jenny Mikakos: Health, Ambulances
 - Luke Donnellan: Child Protection, Disability, Ageing and Carers
 - Martin Foley: Mental Health
 - Richard Wynne: Housing
 - Gabrielle Williams: Prevention of Family Violence, Women, Youth



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- Fairer Victoria established, Department of Premier and Cabinet.
 - Election commitment of progressive implementation of 3 year old kinda
 - The Australian Government review into *Integration, Employment and Settlement Outcomes* in December 2018. The Network made a submission drawing on existing reports.
- ‘Medivac’ legislation
 - Royal Commission into Mental Health
 - Immunisation – ‘no jab, no pay’ reminder....



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CLINICAL SERVICES UPDATE



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Settlement Health Coordinators - data 2019

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



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Settlement Health Coordinators clinical update cont...

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).



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Settlement Health Coordinators clinical update cont...

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



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Settlement Health Coordinators clinical update cont...

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



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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



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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



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Settlement Health Coordinators clinical update cont...

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
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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



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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.



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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



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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.



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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



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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



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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

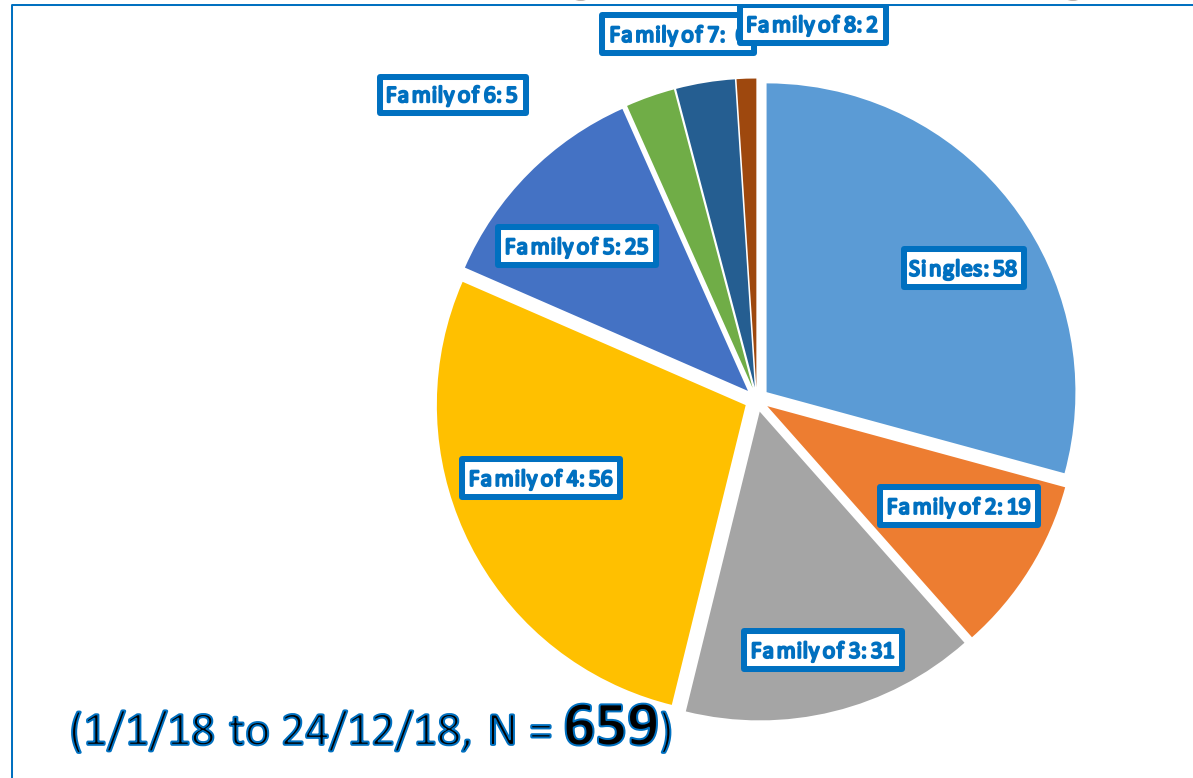


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Clinical services update

East (EACH)

- Referrals to EACH Refugee Health program 2018



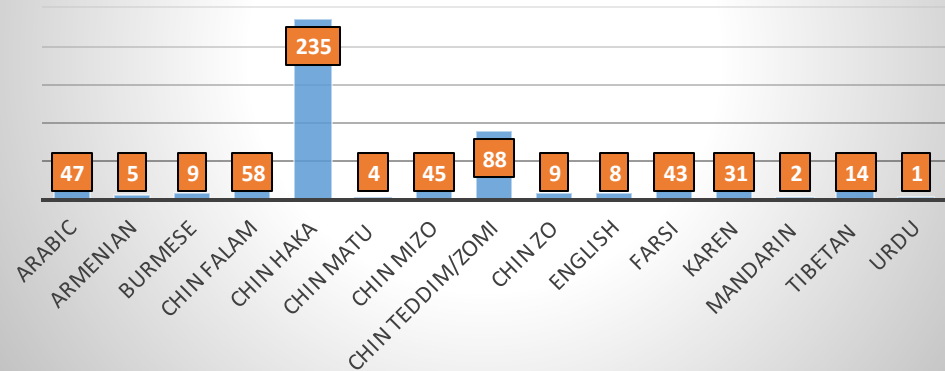
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Clinical services update

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)



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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



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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



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