

Our aims

build the capacity of the Victorian health sector to respond to health concerns experienced by people of refugee backgrounds and address health inequality through health promotion

support services to be more accessible to people from refugee backgrounds particularly in regional and outer metropolitan areas

improve service coordination for recent arrivals and those with more complex needs

www.refugeehealthnetwork.org.au

Get involved

Our website and e-bulletin

www.refugeehealthnetwork.org.au

Our website shares information to support the work of health practitioners, managers, policy advisors, academics and researchers. Content on the website includes refugee health related referral information, resources, research, professional development opportunities, and professional networks. A great way to stay in touch with the latest in refugee health is by subscribing to our monthly e-bulletin, this can be done via our website.

Key resources on our website

- Promoting Refugee Health: A guide for doctors, nurses and other health care providers caring for people from refugee backgrounds (3rd ed.)
- Caring for refugee patients in general practice: A desk top guide (4th ed.)
- The Refugee Health Assessment Tool (2012) available for Medical Director and other software
- Asylum seeker information sheet for Victorian health services

The Victorian Refugee Health Network

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The Victorian Refugee Health Network is auspiced by the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House).

The Victorian Refugee Health Network



victorian refugee
health network

The Victorian Refugee Health Network brings together health, community and settlement services to build their capacity to provide more accessible and appropriate health care for people of refugee backgrounds.



The Victorian Refugee Health Network

Each year approximately 4,000 people of refugee background come to Victoria from many parts of the world. They are a diverse group of people, from many countries, with varied experiences which may affect their health and wellbeing.

The experiences of people of refugee backgrounds prior to arrival in Australia vary, however, typically are characterised by extended periods of deprivation, exposure to torture and other traumatic events, loss of dignity and livelihood, facing impossible decisions and living with ongoing uncertainty. Resettlement stressors can have a compounding effect on the health inequalities experienced by people of refugee backgrounds.

The Victorian Refugee Health Network was formed in 2007 to build the capacity of health services and facilitate a more coordinated response to meet the health and wellbeing needs of people from refugee backgrounds following their resettlement.

Our work

The Network undertakes a range of projects, develops resources and provides specialist advice to address particular issues faced by people from refugee backgrounds, including asylum seekers and those on a range of permanent visas who have had refugee like experiences. Particular issues that the Network has worked to address include ensuring timely and comprehensive primary and specialist health care, access to services in outer metropolitan and regional areas, improved access to oral health care, and improved health care for asylum seekers. Other domains the Network is completing work in include sexual and reproductive health, maternity care, maternal and child health, mental health, and the provision of adequate language services.

Network objectives are achieved through time-limited working groups, targeted projects and forums, practice related research partnerships and provision of policy advice to government, peak bodies and health services.

A Reference Group oversees the work of the Network. Members include representatives of primary, public, acute and mental health care, general practice, settlement services, asylum seeker agencies and relevant State and Commonwealth departments.

