



victorian refugee
health network

Access & Equity Project Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

The Victorian Refugee Health Network (the Network) aims to:

- build the capacity of the Victorian health sector to respond to health concerns experienced by people of refugee backgrounds¹,
- support services to be more accessible to people from refugee backgrounds, and
- improve service coordination for recent arrivals and those with more complex needs.

Project purpose

Create opportunities for under-represented groups to provide advice about their health priorities and experiences of using health services.

Combine information from consultations with refugee-background communities to inform the work of the Network and help ensure that we are responsive to refugee community concerns.

To document the process and findings from the project into a publically-available report to share with Victorian health services and policy-makers.

Purpose of the Project Advisory Group (PAG)

To reflect on and discuss issues related to consultation with communities from refugee backgrounds.

To provide technical advice about:

- the development, implementation and evaluation of the Access & Equity Project consultation framework
- strategies for engaging with under-represented refugee-background communities.

Structure of the Project Advisory Group

It is anticipated that the PAG will meet 3 times in the 6 month development stage of the project (ending March 2016) at the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, 23 Lennox Street Richmond.

Membership of the Project Advisory Group

Chair

Principles for selecting the Chair:

The Chair was directly appointed by the Executive of the Network Reference Group who recognised the role of the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health in identifying and promoting best-practice strategies for cultural competence and meaningful engagement with culturally diverse communities.

¹ Refugee background refers to people who have humanitarian program visas, people who are asylum seekers waiting for their protection application to be processed and people who have arrived with other visa from refugee source countries and have 'refugee like' backgrounds.

Expectations of the Chair:

- Assist in identifying PAG members
- Assist in developing agendas for PAG meetings
- Facilitate discussion during PAG meetings
- Identify actions for follow up
- Provide strategic and content advice about the development of the project

PAG members:

Principles for selecting PAG members:

- Directly appointed based on their experience of working with refugee background communities as bi-cultural, community liaison, or community access workers. They do not represent a community however have expertise in community engagement.
- PAG members should between them have experience working with diverse groups including a range of ages, genders, geographical regions in Victoria and ethnic communities.

Expectations of the members:

- attend a majority of meetings
- be responsive to email correspondence
- complete action items that they agree to follow up
- promote the work of the group within their organisation.