

# SUPPORTING PRIMARY CARE TO WORK WITH PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS: RESOURCES

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## BACKGROUND

People from refugee backgrounds, including people seeking asylum, may have undiagnosed or poorly managed health conditions. This may be a result of exposure to war and displacement, and limited or disrupted access to health care and other resources necessary to maintain good health.

Foundation House and the Victorian Refugee Health Network have a long history of supporting primary care to deliver on arrival and ongoing health care to people from refugee backgrounds (see below). Two of their key resources were updated in 2017-2018: the Australian Refugee Health Practice Guide (the Guide) and the Refugee Health Assessment template (the Template).



## APPROACH

Since the last updates, there have been revised clinical recommendations as well as increased uptake in technology in general practice and other primary care contexts.

The Guide had a rigorous process of selecting writers, editors and reviewers, which ensured that all content was reviewed by refugee health and primary care experts across a range of disciplines. The Template update included more than thirty consultations with nurses and doctors working in a range of primary care settings. Advice from community liaison and bicultural workers from refugee backgrounds was sought to inform both resources.

## THE RESOURCES

The Guide includes a comprehensive website and a hard copy 'desktop guide' covering key topics (see right). The website also includes state based referral information, links to clinical recommendations for screening, diagnosis and management of common health concerns, and approaches to working with children, adolescents, people seeking asylum and other population subgroups.

The Template is compatible with medical software, and supports doctors and nurses to deliver comprehensive health assessments to people from refugee backgrounds in line with current clinical recommendations while allowing flexibility to suit a range of service models.

The Guide and the Template have both been endorsed by APNA.



[refugeehealthguide.org.au](http://refugeehealthguide.org.au)

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victorian refugee health network



Foundation House

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