

Victorian Refugee Health Network Executive Group

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – FINAL 2024

The Victorian Refugee Health Network (the Network) welcomes expressions of interest (EoI) from interested parties who have experience working with people of refugee background and people seeking asylum to join the Network's executive group.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Refugee Health Network was established in 2007 with the aim of reducing health disparities experienced by refugee and asylum seeker background people and communities by:

- building the capacity of the Victorian health sector to respond to health concerns experienced by these cohorts
- addressing health inequality through health promotion
- supporting services to be more accessible to people from refugee backgrounds, particularly in regional and outer metropolitan areas
- improving service coordination for cohorts with complex needs

1. THE EXECUTIVE GROUP

The Executive Group provides strategic oversight and key policy advice related to health services and systems for people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds in Victoria. Functions of the group are guided by the Network's Strategic Plan and include the following key activities:

- Identify and advise key stakeholders including Victorian Department of Health and other Government stakeholders of emerging health issues and priorities for people from refugee backgrounds.
- Provide strategic and service delivery insight for capacity building and quality improvement initiatives for the health system to address the needs of people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.
- Provide guidance on, and endorsement, of the Network's policy advocacy, including policy formulation, and education, training and resource development.
- Provide oversight of the Network's workplan activities

2. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP

The Executive Group consists of 8-10 members and aims to reflect the diverse breadth and scope of Victoria's Refugee Health Sector. Due to rotating membership, the current Executive Group is looking to incorporate the following areas of experience:

- Paediatrics
- General Practice and primary care
- Disability
- Mental Health
- Rural and Regional Refugee Health

3. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- a) Each Executive Group member is appointed for an initial period of three years
- b) It is a condition of appointment that members are required to attend at least three Executive Group meetings a year

4. MEETINGS

- a) The Executive Group meets three to six times a year (three two-hour meetings, three one-hour meetings). Meetings are usually on a Thursday afternoon
- b) The members of the group have the option of meeting via teleconferencing for each meeting if required
- c) Papers are provided a week in advance of each meeting, and there is an expectation members will have read the papers before the meeting
- d) There may be at times the need to attend ad hoc meetings in response to emerging health and policy issues
- e) A secretariat provides support to meetings, CoPs, and all other activities of the Network

5. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED

- Lived experience of refugee background is highly valued, but not essential
- A demonstrated commitment to improving health outcomes for people from refugee backgrounds and people seeking asylum
- Holding a substantive role in health or community services (either in direct service or policy context)
- Willingness to promote the work of the Network across local networks and communities
- An ability to bring the perspectives of communities and services into the work of the Network
- Time to attend three Executive Group meetings per year (2-hour meetings)
- Time to read papers prior to meetings (1-2 hours per meeting) and a willingness and ability to respond to provide governance and sponsorship oversight over Network projects and/or advocacy submissions
- Professional knowledge and experience in one of the following portfolio areas:
 - Paediatrics
 - General Practice and primary care
 - Disability
 - Mental Health
 - Rural and Regional Refugee Health

6. HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply to be a member of the Network Executive Group, please provide a short application that outlines:

- Your interest in being a member of the Network Executive Group
- Relevant skills and experience, as detailed in Section 5.

Please submit your application via email to refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au. Applications close mid-March 2024.

Please direct any queries to Gavin Halge, Coordinator, Victorian Refugee Health Network halgeg@foundationhouse.org.au