



## victorian refugee health network

### **Victorian Refugee Health Network Primary Care Project: Plain Language Statement**

#### **The project**

This research project is being undertaken by the Victorian Refugee Health Network (the Network), who are auspiced by the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House). The Victorian Refugee Health Network brings together a range of health, settlement, government and other stakeholders to improve health and community services for people of refugee backgrounds. Foundation House provides a range of services for people from refugee backgrounds, including counselling, group work, professional development, research and policy.

This research project will help us to understand what is needed to support more general practices to deliver accessible and appropriate health care to people from refugee backgrounds. This research project will also help us to understand the most important needs of people from refugee backgrounds when they go to a general practice.

#### **Why am I being invited to participate?**

This project will ask Refugee Health Nurses, Refugee Health Fellows and others who work in refugee health and/or who work with general practice to share their experiences about what supports and resources are needed so that more general practices are able and willing to see people from refugee backgrounds. Bi-cultural workers and community advisors will be asked to share experiences of communities from refugee backgrounds with general practice to assist our work to meet the communities' needs.

#### **What will I get out of being in the research?**

If you decide to take part in this project you will be contributing to improving accessibility and appropriateness of healthcare services for people from refugee backgrounds when they go to a general practice. Participation in this project will occur in your professional capacity.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

Deciding if you want to be part of this project is up to you. You don't have to be part of this project if you don't want to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you can leave and there will not be any judgement or discrimination towards you because you have left.

#### **If I decide to participate, what will I be asked to do?**

You may be asked to complete a survey, and interview or meetings and this will determine the amount of time it will take to participate in this project. This will be arranged between you and the project worker, Samantha Furneaux. You can arrange to meet wherever is convenient for you, for example, at Foundation House in Brunswick, in your place of work or somewhere else..

#### **What questions will I be asked?**

You will be asked questions about your observations of people from refugee backgrounds engaging with a general practice, either as a health care worker or as a community support worker/advisor.



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You will be asked what was good about the interaction and what did not work, and what you think is important when approaching a general practice to work with individuals and families from refugee backgrounds. This might be about how to approach or access general practice, the kinds of support general practice need and what they should do to make sure their practice is accessible and appropriate for people from refugee backgrounds.

### **Are there any down sides to being involved in the study?**

People may find it feels good to share their observations in order to improve the services delivered in general practice to people from refugee backgrounds, but this may also be potentially upsetting if you are speaking about the difficult experiences you are aware of through your work or in your community. If you become upset, please inform the project worker.

### **Will the information I provide be private and confidential?**

Any information collected for the project through the survey, interviews or meetings will be stored on a password protected computer at Foundation House in Brunswick. You have the right to see any information that you have provided. If you do not want to have your name included in any publications from the project, then you do not have to. Because we are working on this project to improve services, we would like to acknowledge the people and agencies who have been involved to recognise their contributions, but you can decide if you do not want this to happen.

### **What will you do with my information?**

The information provided for this project will be collected together and studied so that we can develop and trial an approach to engaging general practice in refugee health in Victoria. This means that we hope to share our learnings from this project with other health professionals and in newsletter updates, webpage updates, project reports, and research journals. We would like to acknowledge people who contribute to the project, however we will keep your details confidential if you would prefer.

### **Further information**

If you would like more information about the project or about the questions in the survey, interview or other discussion groups please ask the project worker, Samantha Furneaux. If you have more questions or any complaints, please contact Philippa Duell-Piening, ph: 03 9389 8909 or email [duell-pieningp@foundationhouse.org.au](mailto:duell-pieningp@foundationhouse.org.au). An interpreter can be arranged.

### **Ethical concerns**

This project has been approved by the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Institutional Ethics Committee. If you are concerned about any ethical aspects such as confidentiality or have any questions that the project worker has not been able to answer, please contact a representative of the Foundation House Institutional Ethics Committee on (03) 9388 0022.