

REFUGEES AND PRIMARY HEALTH (RaPH) PROJECT

Supporting quality primary health care for your patients of a refugee background.

This new initiative is a partnership with key refugee health services, primary and tertiary care providers, divisions of general practice, settlement support services and refugee communities. It is funded by Queensland Health through the Connecting Health in Communities (CHIC) Chronic Disease initiative.

The project is managed by the **Mater UQ Centre for Primary Health Care Innovation** and works closely with the recently established **Refugee Health Queensland service** which has both a state-wide coordination function and a clinical function. Refugee Health Queensland is a partnership with Mater Health Services and Queensland Health. RHQ has a clinic at 616 Stanley Street Woolloongabba and provides refugee health advice, resources, training and support to general practices.

The RaPH project is an 18 month initiative which will work to “develop, implement and evaluate a sustainable **primary care approach**, utilising existing resources that will support and enhance the clinical management of chronic disease including health promotion and prevention in refugee populations.” The initial focus is on the Brisbane South area however it is acknowledged that there are 4 other key reception areas throughout Queensland – Brisbane North, Logan, Toowoomba, Cairns and Townsville.

The project aims to:

- support the primary care team to deliver safe, effective, timely, patient centred, efficient and equitable care to refugee patients by
 - developing protocols, care pathways and effective communication strategies
 - providing training and education
- strengthen integration and relationships between local general practice providers and other refugee service providers, community health, hospitals and specialist service providers
- develop and undertake research in collaboration with key universities, service providers and communities.

Primary care services are ideally placed to provide long term and effective management of chronic diseases. With an ageing population and ever increasing chronic health problems the sector is under unprecedented stress. This project will work with the initiatives and approaches already in place to improve primary health care capacity and will focus attention on the provision of quality care for refugee patients.

The project managers are keen to seek your input and encourage sharing of information or issues. Three working groups have been established – Clinical Access; Research; and Community Engagement. Regular updates will be provided through divisions and Mater Health Services

For more information about this project or Refugee Health Queensland please contact:

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