

Inquiry into support for Older Victorians from Migrants and Refugee backgrounds



**Barwon
Health**



Barwon Health Background

- Comprehensive regional health service providing care at all stages of life and circumstance.
- Provide care throughout the Barwon South West region.
- Acute hospital, rehabilitation, aged care, community health.
- Major teaching health service.

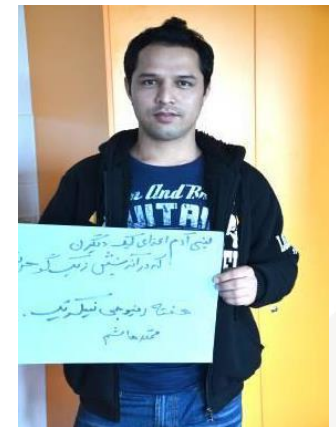
Key Refugee Groups Supported

Refugee groups:

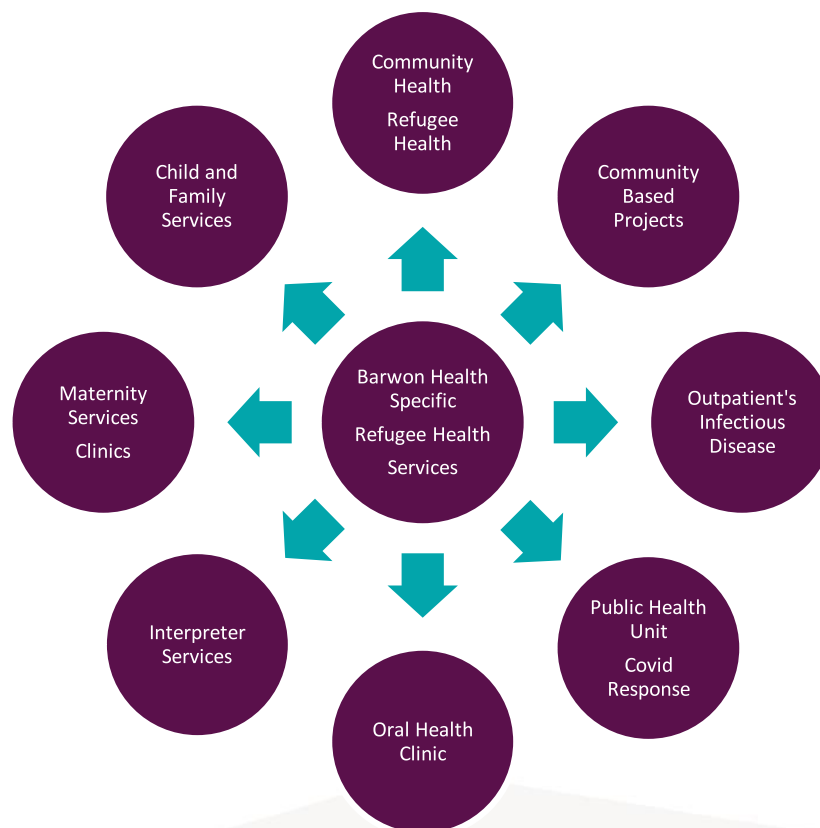
- Karen
- Kareni
- Afghani
- Sudanese
- Congolese

Asylum Seeker groups:

- Sri Lanka
- South India
- Pakistan
- Philippines



Work we do in the Refugee space



Community Health Refugee Health

- Department of Health supported funding – 1.0 FTE Refugee Health Nurse
 - Comprehensive Assessment.
 - Development of needs profile.
 - Care Planning.
 - Service Co-ordination.
 - Follow up and monitoring.
 - Improving health literacy.
- Allied Health – 0.9 FTE
 - Podiatry.
 - Physiotherapy.
 - Psychology.
 - Social Work.
 - Occupational therapy.
 - Dietetics.
 - Physiotherapy.
 - Diabetes education.

Outpatient Services

- Infectious diseases clinics, eg:
 - Tuberculosis.
 - HIV.
 - Sexual health.
- Midwives Clinics/ Maternity Services.
- Child and family services.

Oral Health

- Specialist Oral Health.
 - School dental.
- Cultural Impacts.
 - Eg Beetle nut.
- Trialling Google translate.

Interpreter Services

- Transitioning to Barwon Health – in-house services.
- Pathways to grow services – capabilities.

Community projects and representations

- Ongoing work with Cultura (formally Diversitat).
 - Mental health project.
 - Women's health.
 - Settlement support.
 - Community kitchens.



Community projects and representations

- COVID-19
 - Immunisation.
 - Networking to support information flow in the northern suburbs.



CALD community - vaccination

- Supported pop-up vaccination clinics at Diversitat Hub for largest cultural groups: Karen/ Karenni, Afghan, Congolese/ Sudanese, Arabic etc with translators on-site.
- Translated material at hub.
- Online translated vaccination hesitation sessions with multiple groups with Prof Athan.
- Training for Diversitat Bilingual support workers to help support the community with information.

CALD community vaccination (cont).

- Translated videos in eight languages on website on how to book a vaccine and what to expect.
- Signage at hub for CALD community to assist with seeking interpreter.
- CALD community hero in press ads etc.
- Regular information provided to Diversitat for their weekly translated updates/telegrams to community.
- Cultural leader “Community Heroes”

Opportunities for growth

Identified service gaps:

- Specialist Supervision requirements for staff – vicarious trauma.
- Interpreting services – both capacity and capability.
- Effects of settlement programs and service set ups.
- Mental Health Services impacts.
- NDIS impacts.
- Employment opportunities.