



The SA Refugee Health Network (SARHN) is a network for people interested in supporting the health refugees and asylum seekers. The network now includes GPs, allied health professionals, nurses, pharmacists, researchers, counsellors, psychologists and representatives from the Migrant Health Service, STTARS, the SA Department of Health, the Migrant Resource Centre, hospitals and Divisions of General Practice. Membership of the SA Refugee Health Network is open to all, with a particular focus on allied health workers and GPs.

SARHN was established in 2003, under the auspices of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and it is currently auspiced by the Discipline of General Practice, in the School of Population Health and Clinical Practice at the University of Adelaide. Since its establishment, it has grown to include a wide variety of individual members and organisations and SARHN is now a member of the Refugee Council of Australia

SARHN is overseen by an Advisory Committee drawn from the membership and any SARHN member may nominate to be a member of the SARHN Advisory Committee. The Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Secretary are drawn from Committee Membership, and all positions are voluntary and declared vacant annually. The Advisory Committee makes decisions re the functioning and activities of SARHN and provides a strategic overview of SARHN activities, particularly in the areas of education, advocacy and research and to ensure that these activities reflect the aims and objectives of SARHN and the strategic directions.

Educational and research activities are overseen by sub committees and membership of these committees is also drawn from general membership.

THE MISSION OF SARHN IS TO:

- Promote the health and wellbeing of refugees
- Support health professionals working with refugees

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To increase health workers' awareness and understanding of the needs of refugees and asylum seekers

- To provide an opportunity for health professionals working with, or interested in the health of refugees to come together and support, listen and teach each other
- To develop and provide education and training in areas relevant to refugee health
- To advocate for activities, services and supports which will promote and maintain the health of refugees in South Australia
- To support research in the area of refugee health which is inclusive, ethical and involves refugees themselves in the development and implementation of that research

ACTIVITIES

Every year SARHN undertakes a variety of activities in the areas of advocacy, education and research. These activities have included:

- Regular seminars for GPs, primary health care professionals and volunteers on refugee health issues
- Submissions to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on various discussion papers on the Australian Humanitarian Entrants program
- Advocacy for initiatives aimed at improving the health of refugees such as the introduction of a specific Medicare Item Number for initial health screening for refugees in general practice and a proposal for the implementation of the “Complex Case Support Network” initiative in SA
- Development of the “Ethics of Research with Refugees” workshop in conjunction with the three South Australian Universities and the Ethics Centre of SA.
- Development of a booklet for volunteers working with refugees on common health issues

BECOMING A MEMBER OF SARHN

Membership of SARHN can be as active or passive as you wish. We regularly send out information on issues relevant to refugee and asylum seeker health via email, and have a number of sub committees looking at education and research which you are welcome to join. There are also regular general meetings to discuss issues which arise around refugee health, and advocacy issues.

If you have any queries regarding SARHN, or would like any further information, or would like to join, please contact **Teresa Burgess** on (08) 8303 3468, or teresa.burgess@adelaide.edu.au or **Jan Williams** on 8237 3912 or Jan.Williams@health.sa.gov.au