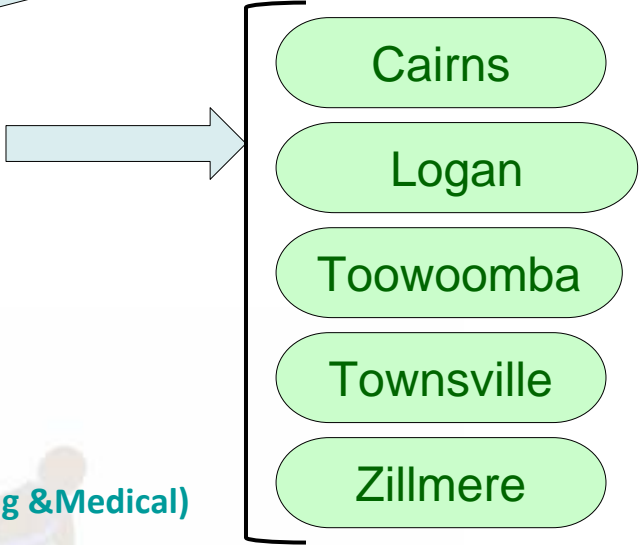
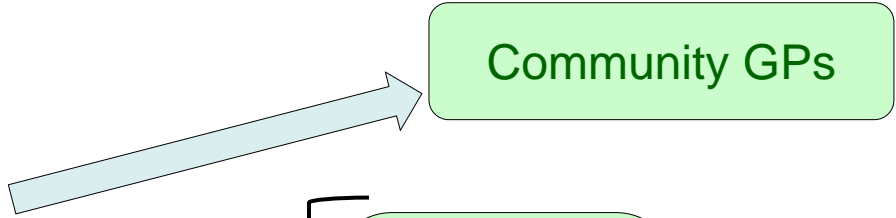


Recent Arrivals to Brisbane

September 2009





Nursing assessments
Immunisation catch-up worked out and/or vaccinated
Referrals to health services
Some complex case coordination



Health Assessments (Nursing & Medical)
Pathology
Immunisation
Referrals to health services
2-3 visits

Complex case coordination
Ongoing healthcare for asylum seekers and Medicare ineligible persons

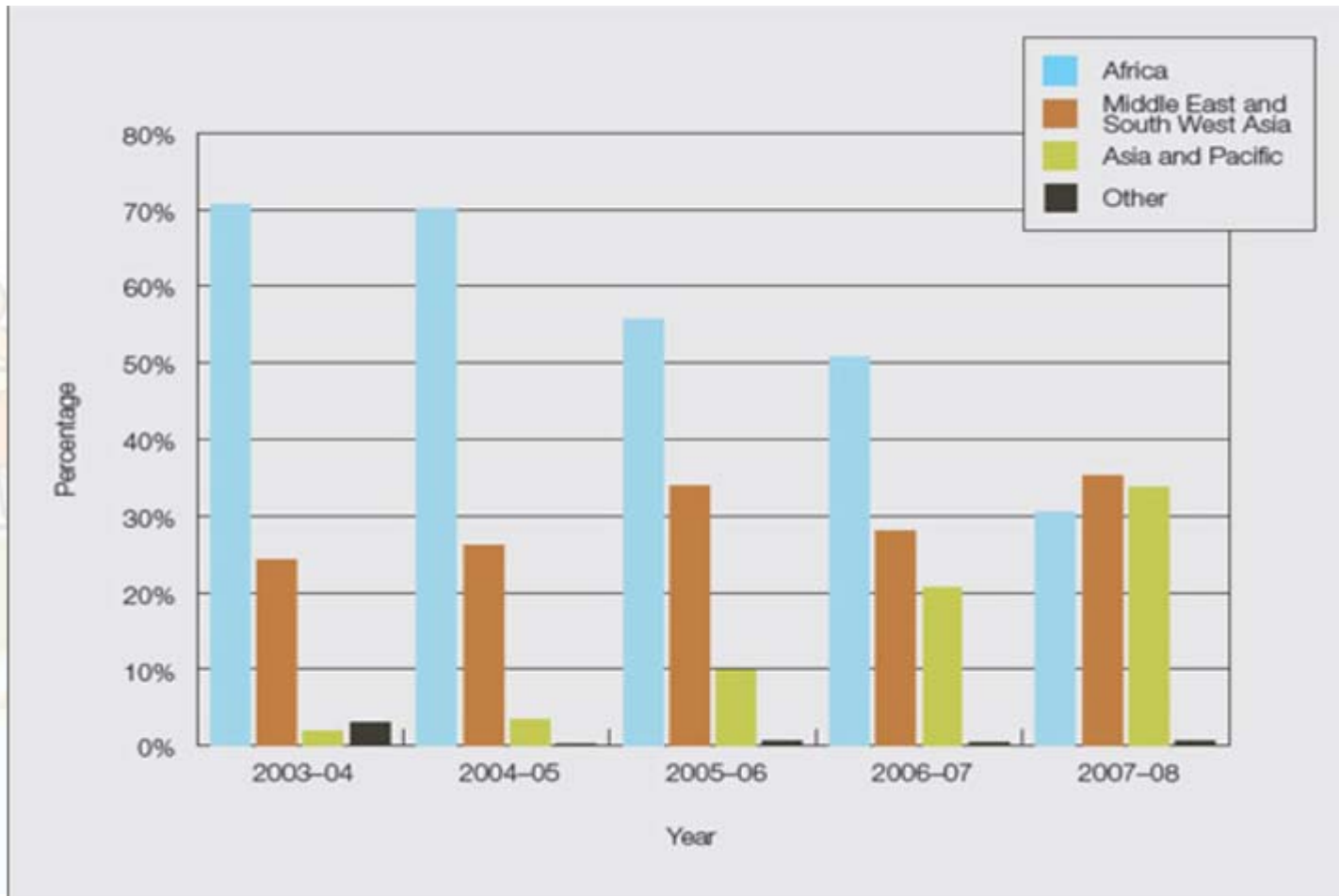
Support to Spokes
Support to Community GPs



Refugee Health Queensland.... an update

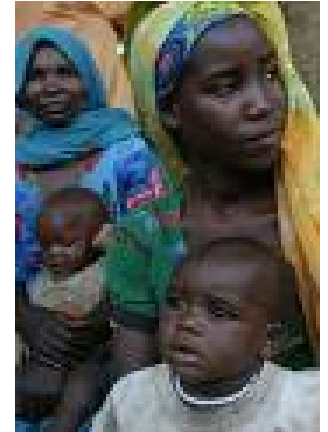
- All new arrivals offered Health Assessment, facilitated by the Settlement Service
- Brisbane clinic opened doors Feb 2009
- 13 Sessional GPs (54 hrs), 3 FTE Nursing Staff
- 2-4 appointments, pathology, Rx commenced, immunisation
- Medicare item 714
- Referrals, including community GP
- Extended Care stream (formerly QIRCH)

The changing face of refugee settlement to Australia



The refugee experience

- War or civil unrest
- Long-term persecution, repression and deprivation
- Separation from, and loss of, family and friends
- Imprisonment without trial
- Actual or threatened beatings, torture and rape, or witnessing of same
- Overcrowding, poor hygiene and under-nutrition, particularly if imprisoned or in refugee camps
- Poor health care, due to destruction of infrastructure, disruption to preventive and curative services or limited access to health services while fleeing or in exile.

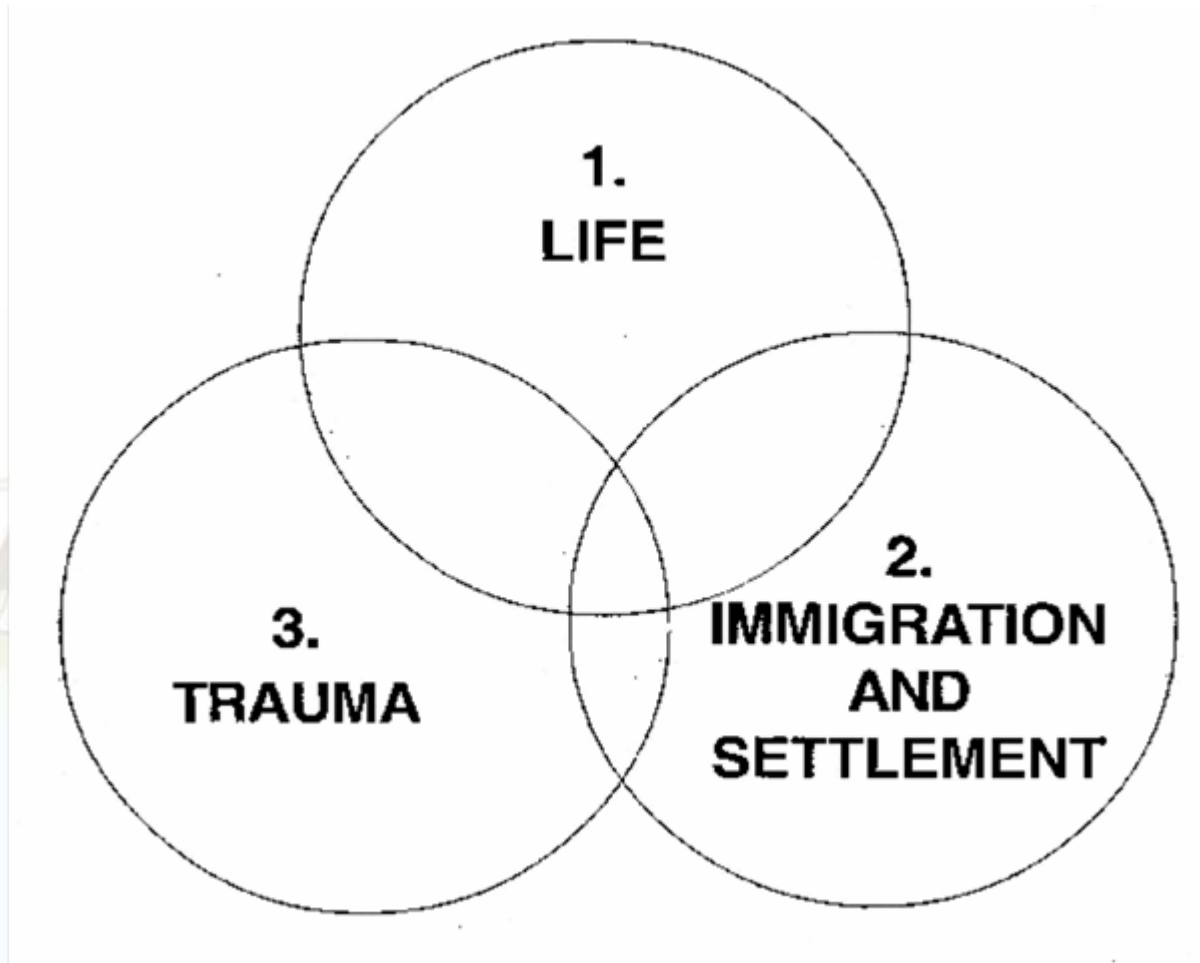


Resettlement risks

- Ongoing grief (loss of friends, family, culture, community)
 - Anxiety/uncertainties re family left
 - Survivor guilt
 - Adjustments ++ (including dealing with people in authority)
- Access to social and economic resources (housing, education, employment, income, discrimination).....effect on health outcomes
- Loss of protective effects of family /social supports. Cultural and language barriers impedes social integration

Promoting Refugee Health: A guide for doctors and other health providers caring for people from refugee backgrounds. 2nd Ed. Published by Foundation House-The Victorian foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc.

The refugee experience



Top 10 health problems in newly arrived refugees (>15 yrs age)

1. Vaccinations required (NB. Catch ups funded for refugees)
2. Vitamin D deficiency / insufficiency
3. Schistosomiasis (positive test)
4. Musculoskeletal problems
5. Psychological problems
6. Latent TB
7. Dental problems
8. Iron deficiency / anaemia
9. Social problems (isolation, unemployment, housing etc)
10. Pregnancy

(<15 yrs age: GI infection, URTI, skin infections, malaria, otitis media)

Tiong et al 2006, Melbourne GPs, n258, Sudan 57%, Liberia 17%

Recommended Investigations

- Malaria Ag and films
- Hepatitis B and C serology
- Tuberculosis (Mantoux)
- Parasite serology (Schistosoma and Strongyloides)
- Faeces Microscopy/OCP
- urinalysis
- Syphilis serology
- HIV serology
- Chronic disease / cancer screening (according to age, gender, Hx
E.g.. lipid profile, PAP smear)
- FBE
- Hb EPP
- U&E / LFT
- TSH
- Fe Studies / folate
- Serum Vitamin D
- Serum Vitamin A (<15yrs)
- Serum Lead level (<7yrs)
- Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea testing (if >15 yrs, symptomatic or child at risk)
- Pregnancy test (if child-bearing age)



Exceptional People. Exceptional Care.

Refugee Health Queensland

Brisbane ✦ Cairns ✦ Logan ✦ Toowoomba ✦ Townsville ✦ Zillmere

The role of health professionals

- Care of physical and mental health
- Provide reassurance to those who fear have been irreparably harmed by their experiences
- Re-establish dignity, self respect, self esteem, self care
- Re-establish trust / confidence in authority figures
- Use interpreters (optimal communication, builds rapport, reduce anxiety)
- Address physical barriers to accessing health care
- Sensitivity to effects of torture and trauma, cultural differences (including experiences with health services)
- Information on health services
- Linking with other supports, networks

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