

24 February 2010

Dear Refugee Health Care Provider,

The Department of Health (DoH) has continued to fund two 0.5 EFT positions in Refugee Health, based at the Royal Children's Hospital (Dr Kirsty Walsh, an advance trainee in paediatrics) and the Royal Melbourne Hospital (Dr Tom Schulz, an Infectious Diseases Physician).

An important part of these jobs is to provide education and support, particularly to GPs and specialists who see refugees in their practice. As the new Refugee Health Fellows for 2010, we would like to introduce ourselves, and ask for suggestions as to how we can provide a useful service.

We are happy to be contacted to discuss cases or specific issues (see our contact details below), and we can also visit metropolitan and regional centres to meet with health providers involved in the care of refugees. This could take the form of discussions about refugee health care in your practice, and/or more formal group education sessions.

We are keen to tailor such education sessions to your interests and needs..

A day time forum is preferable, however we can be available at other times.

We have provided a list of possible topics; however if there is something else you would like to discuss, please let us know

Potential topics for education sessions in refugee health:

- *Hepatitis B and C*
- *HIV*
- *Tuberculosis*
- *Malaria*
- *Helicobacter pylori in children (and adults)*
- *Other infectious diseases*
 - *Strongyloides, schistosomiasis*
- *Vitamin D*
- *Developmental issues*
- *Catch up Immunisations*
- *Dermatology, with reference to refugee population*
- *Torture and trauma experience*
- *ESL acquisition*
- *Adolescent health*

A specialist immigrant health clinic operates at each of our hospitals:

1) Royal Children's Hospital: Monday afternoon (clinic coordinator is Helen Milton, contacted through RCH switchboard on 9345 5522 or email helen.milton@rch.org.au)

2) Royal Melbourne Hospital : Tuesday morning (telephone 9342 7212 or fax 9342 7277 for appointments).

In addition, we can offer telephone and email secondary consultation and support.

We look forward to meeting with you, and to providing whatever support we can in the course of the year.

Kind regards,



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