



# MIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

## **Communiqué**

### **Third Meeting, Sub-Working Group on Refugee Women's Health – Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership**

**21 August 2017**

Sub-Working Group on Refugee Women's Health met for the third time in Melbourne on 21 August 2017. Members received an update on the progress of the Partnership's work, noting in particular the completed review of cultural competence policy and practice in the clinical education, training and standard setting. Members were also informed of the work of the Sub-Working Group on Effective Communication and Working with Interpreters Standards.

The meeting focussed on the development of a cultural competence framework and standards for clinical education and training. It is envisaged that the framework will be structured around a series of overarching principles, including patient-centred care, equity, access, safety and quality, and dignity. The competencies will be mapped across a series of domains—including clinical expert, communicator, collaborator, leader, health advocate and scholar.

Further, the group discussed the issues raised as part of the cultural competence review that should be addressed in developing the framework. These included the focus on health literacy focus and trauma-informed care, the need to ensure that the Framework's engenders implementation while providing scope for flexibility, the consideration of the safety and risks for all stakeholders, and the impact of systemic and individual racism and discrimination on health outcomes.

The Sub-Working Group received a briefing by Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, Research Fellow in Aboriginal Health, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute. It was emphasised that in order to be culturally safe when addressing the needs of refugee and migrant groups in Australia, reference must be made to the context of Indigenous peoples. The different benefits of an integrated curriculum as opposed to a discrete curriculum were also discussed.

The Working Group will hold its next meeting at the end of November 2017.

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