



MIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Communiqué

Second Meeting, Sub-Working Group on Refugee Women's Health - Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership

22 May 2017

Sub-Working Group on Refugee Women's Health met for the second time via teleconference in May 2017. Members received an update on the progress of the Partnership's scoping work, noting in particular the review of cultural competence policy and practice in education, training and standard setting for clinicians, as well as the review of good practice within the initiatives undertaken by Primary Health Networks to facilitate the provision of primary health care to migrants and refugees.

Both reports will contribute to one of the key objectives of the Partnership—developing better understanding of practice that supports cultural capability in health care. They will also enable an analysis of areas for improvement and inform the future work across these two directions with a view to conceptualising and embedding good practice frameworks.

The Sub-Working Group also discussed the findings of the consultations held with refugee women and health practitioners in Adelaide in May 2017. Key messages from refugee women with regards to health literacy strategies included the need to tap into valuable touchpoints for health literacy education in the settlement process, and to build on the opportunities to improve the provision of health and health system information, as well as the assistance in transitioning to routine health care. The consultations also provided an opportunity for refugee women to raise specific health concerns which included healthy lifestyle, healthy eating and exercise, and mental health, particularly of young people as they adjust to their new home. Lack of education for young women was discussed extensively around sexual and reproductive health.

The consultation with health practitioners emphasised a broad recognition of the need to improve education and training in cultural humility in the provision of care for migrants and refugees. Suggested strategies included an educational framework, and employing a methodology that would encourage uptake by health practitioners, including professional development opportunities and easily accessible online formats. The consultation discussed extensively the needs to assess and evaluate the impact of culturally competent practice on health care outcomes, particularly with regards to patient experience.

The report from the consultations will be made available shortly and will inform the work of the Partnership going forward.

The Sub-Working Group's next meeting will be held in August 2017.

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