



MIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Communiqué

Fifth Meeting, Working Group, Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership 24 November 2017

The Working Group, Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership, held its fifth meeting in Melbourne on 24 November 2017.

The Working Group met with Ms Maria Dimopoulos, Chair, Harmony Alliance—the recently established national migrant and refugee women's alliance—to discuss the issues of mutual interest for the Alliance and the Partnership, and the opportunities to collaborate on issues affecting migrant and refugee women, including the issue of housing and homelessness and its impact on individual health and wellbeing. Dr Kudzai Kanhutu presented research on the housing issues affecting refugee patients in Melbourne. The Partnership agreed on the importance of the Partnership working with relevant stakeholders to address the issue of housing and homelessness as a social determinant of health.

The group discussed the progress in pursuing specific projects under the Partnership's workplan, including the collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to use the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (2nd ed.) to improve the health care provided to migrants and refugees. Further, Ms Caroline Humphreys of the Department of Social Services informed the Working Group of the work undertaken by the Department to promote the Free Interpreting Service to private medical practitioners and practice support staff, working closely with the Department of Health and the Primary Health Networks.

The meeting provided an opportunity to progress the development of the cultural responsiveness curriculum framework for clinical education and training. Associate Professor Christine Phillips, Chair of the Sub-Working Group on Effective Communication and Working with Interpreters Standards, provided an overview of the development of the proposed standards for clinicians working with interpreters in health care settings, which form part of the cultural responsiveness framework. The draft standards will be progressed in line with the discussions in the meeting.

The Working Group will hold its next meeting in February 2018.

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