Paediatric Refugee Health Conference 2014

Celebrating the Health Assessment for Refugee Kids (HARK's) 10th year

Friday May 16th 2014
## Program

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<td>Refugee screening in schools. The Evans Project</td>
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Speakers / Presenters

**Elizabeth Koff**
*Chief Executive Officer of the*  
*Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network*

Elizabeth Koff was appointed as Chief Executive of the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network in September 2010. Prior to this appointment, Elizabeth held a number of executive positions in South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service, including Director of Population Health, Planning and Performance, and Director of Clinical Operations.

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**Alanna Maycock**  
*HARK Refugee Coordinator*

Alanna Maycock is a registered nurse working in both refugee health and infectious diseases. Alanna has a Masters in Health Science with research examining the barriers accessing health services for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. She also has post graduate certificates in Immunisation and Tuberculosis screening. Alanna has been working with refugees and asylum seekers in both the governmental and voluntary sectors of Australia and the UK. She obtained funding to implement a service that treats victims of Gender Based Violence. She was the project manager for a scheme that introduced a way for GPs and practice nurses to screen all new migrants who enter the UK for communicable diseases. She is currently the Coordinator for the HARK Clinic that screens, supports and meets the needs of children from refugee backgrounds.

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**David Isaacs**  
*Head of HARK, Staff Specialist, Infectious Diseases*

Professor David Isaacs has been the Head of The Children’s Hospital at Westmead’s Refugee Clinic since 2005. He is Clinical Professor in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at The University of Sydney. He is the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health.
Kath Cannings  
*Clinical Nurse Consultant, Immunisation*

Kath Cannings is a Clinical Nurse Consultant who has completed a Master of Public Health as well as post graduate qualifications in immunisation and infection control. She joined the National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance in 2010 after 10 years of experience as Immunisation Coordinator for the Northern Sydney Public Health Unit. She has also worked in several large private hospitals as Infection Control Nurse Consultant. Kath’s current role with NCIRS is the management and follow up of children and adults who have experienced an adverse event following immunisation.

Angela Dixon  
*Department Head, Psychological Medicine*

Dr Angela Dixon is Clinical Research Director and a Senior Clinical Psychologist at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. Dr Dixon has worked with emotionally troubled children and adolescents in Australia and the USA for the past 20 years. Her special interests are anxiety disorders, trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder in children and adolescents. Dr Dixon completed a Masters degree at Harvard University and a PhD from the University of Sydney that investigated trauma and psychiatric disturbance in female juvenile offenders. In her current role she co-ordinates the Psychological Medicine Trauma Clinic and teaches child and adolescent mental health to academic and professional audiences.
Robert Tickner

*Chief Executive Officer, Australian Red Cross*

Robert Tickner was appointed as Secretary General – Chief Executive Officer in February 2005. In 2012, Robert was seconded to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva to act as Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Values and Diplomacy.

Prior to taking up his Red Cross appointment, Robert was the CEO of Job Futures Ltd, a large national network of community-based employment service providers.

Robert served as Federal Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs from 1990-1996 and is Australia's longest serving Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Before being elected to the Federal parliament, he was a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the Institute of Technology as well as the Faculty of Business Studies. He later served as Principal Solicitor to the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service. Between 1977 and 1984 he served as a Councillor on the Sydney City Council including a very brief period as Acting Lord Mayor.

Abstract:

*The Australian Red Cross has Standards for monitoring immigration detention, based on the experience of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement, on international law and on the community standards we expect in Australia.*

“There is evidence that long periods in detention can have profound and debilitating effects, which extend to one’s health and well-being.

Health care in detention should be based on community standards, but also needs to take into account the complex vulnerabilities of people in detention.

All people detained in immigration detention facilities are entitled to the maintenance of good health and wellbeing and to be treated with dignity and respect.”
David Manne
Director, Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, Australia

David Manne is a lawyer and migration agent, and Executive Director of the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre (RILC). He has worked in various capacities assisting refugees and asylum seekers for more than 20 years. David sat on the Board of the Refugee Council of Australia for seven years and currently sits on a number of non-government Boards, including the Human Rights Law Centre and the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Ethics Committee, and peak Government consultative bodies. He has also been appointed to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Advisory Board of Eminent Persons.

Abstract:

David’s address will focus on the current High Court challenge to the Government’s cap and bar on granting onshore protection visas, as well as the question of how medical professionals can assist asylum seekers and their legal teams with applications for refugee protection. In doing so, it will draw on RILC’s recent successful High Court test cases involving offshore processing of asylum seekers, the Malaysia case, and indefinite detention of refugees on security grounds, and the implications for the rule of law. It will also examine the emergence of an ever-deepening trend by successive Governments to pursue policy objectives in the asylum area without proper regard for their potential to harm people seeking protection. In this context what can be done by legal and medical professionals to better protect peoples’ rights, well-being and their freedom from future abuse?
Gillian Triggs

President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

Gillian Triggs is the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission. She was Dean of the Faculty of Law and Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney from 2007–2012 and Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law from 2005–2007. She is a former barrister with Seven Wentworth Chambers and a Governor of the College of Law.

Professor Triggs has combined an academic career with an international commercial legal practice and has worked with governments and international organisations on offshore insurers, World Trade Organisation law and human rights.

Abstract:

Children in immigration detention: what are the human rights issues?

Australia’s system of mandatory detention applies to all non-citizens who arrive in Australia without a visa, including children. For many years, the Australian Human Rights Commission has raised significant concerns about the situation of children in mandatory detention, including the numbers of children in detention, the prolonged periods for which some children are detained and the conditions of detention. By the end of 2013 the number of children in closed immigration detention facilities in Australia peaked. The Australian Human Rights Commission therefore decided that it was time to reassess the situation and launched the National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention. The objective of this inquiry is to assess the impact of immigration detention on the health, well-being and development of children. The benefit of holding such an inquiry is that it allows children who have been directly affected by detention to share their stories, and provides a process for professionals and experts to have a voice through submissions and public hearings.
Philip Britton  
*Fellow, Infectious Diseases*  
Dr Philip Britton is a paediatrician and Infectious Diseases Physician. He has worked in the HARK clinic for four years and has a long term interest in global child health and communicable diseases. He is Sydney Medical School Dean’s Fellow and a PhD candidate studying the clinical epidemiology of encephalitis in Australian children.

Mitchell Smith  
*Director, NSW Refugee Health Service*  
Dr Mitchell Smith is a public health physician who worked overseas with Afghan and Vietnamese refugees and asylum seekers in the 1990s. Since 1999, Dr Smith has been Director of the NSW Refugee Health Service, a service funded by the NSW Ministry of Health which aims to improve the health of people of refugee background living in NSW. His roles include policy advice, education, management and advocacy. For the past two years he has been the Chair of the National Refugee Health Network of Australia and, until recently, sat on a sub-committee of the Immigration Health Advisory Group.

Richard Bryant  
*Director, Traumatic Stress Clinic, Westmead Hospital*  
Professor Richard Bryant is a Scientia Professor of Psychology at the University of New South Wales, an ARC Laureate Fellow and Director of the Traumatic Stress Unit at Westmead Hospital. He is a leading expert in managing traumatic stress reactions in civilians, indigenous people and refugees. He has published over 400 research articles and heads Australia’s leading team on post-traumatic mental health. The Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program at the Traumatic Stress Clinic conducts research and treatment programs for refugees and collaborates with many leading refugees agencies around the world.
Mark Isaacs

Author

Mark Isaacs became impassioned by the asylum seeker debate after a visit to Villawood Detention Centre while working for Oxfam. In October 2012, Mark was employed by the Salvation Army to work at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre. Author of ‘The Undesirables’, Mark graduated with a BA in Communications (Writing and Cultural Studies) and a BA in International Studies (Latin American Studies) from the University of Technology, Sydney. Mark established the Recreations Program and Oceans Program for asylum seekers and is now employed as a case manager at an asylum seeker settlement agency in Sydney.

Abstract:

Australia’s offshore detention policy is cruel and inhumane; governed by ignorance, mistruths and propaganda, where asylum seekers are demonised to legitimise a deterrence policy that is shrouded in secrecy so as to prevent the Australian public from understanding the reality of what their government is doing to discourage persecuted minorities from seeking protection. Mark Isaacs, a former Salvation Army employee in Nauru and recent author of ‘The Undesirables’, talks about his time in Nauru where he experienced the realities of ‘The Pacific Solution’. Australia’s hard-line stance on asylum seekers is increasingly polarising the community.
Georgia Paxton
Paediatrician, Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne

Dr Georgia Paxton is Head of Immigrant Health at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, and has worked in refugee health for nearly 10 years. She has been involved in developing clinical guidelines, education resources and policy in paediatric refugee health. Her research and policy interests include health literacy, the health status of children of refugee backgrounds, learning issues in non–English speaking students and vitamin D. She is the lead author of the Victorian Government’s Refugee Status Report, published in 2011, and Chair of the Victorian Refugee Health Network.

Abstract:

Age assessment in children and young people of refugee-background.

Age assessment is an issue that arises frequently in paediatric refugee health, both in the early settlement period, and also months or years after arrival in Australia. Although age assessment is not part of paediatric training, paediatricians are well placed to provide these assessments.

This session will provide a clinical perspective on age assessment - examining how and when this issue arises, the clinical, service and legal implications, pragmatic issues and challenges associated with assessment; and a suggested framework for approaching age assessment in children and young people of refugee-background.
Ben Marais  
*Snr Clinical Academic Fellow*

Associate Professor Ben Marais is a Paediatrician who works in Infectious Diseases at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. He is a member of the WHO Child TB working group and the regional (Asia-Pacific) Child TB Task Force. His personal area of research interest is tuberculosis; especially the spread of drug resistant disease and how children are affected by the global epidemic. He is Deputy Director of the Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity (MBI). MBI represents a diverse group of academics with wide-ranging interests in infectious diseases.

Hasantha Gunasekera  
*Staff Specialist, General Medicine*

Dr Hasantha Gunasekera is a General Paediatrician at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead and Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney. He has worked in the Refugee Clinic at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead since 2007.

Richard Widmer  
*Department Head, Staff Specialist, Dental Services*

Prof Richard Widmer received his Master’s Degree in Paediatric Dentistry from the University of Melbourne. The majority of his paediatric clinical practice over the last 30 years has been at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. Prof Widmer is currently an Associate Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry, The University of Sydney, and Head of the Dental Department at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. He is a very active clinician and lecturer, presenting to students and graduates in all branches of the Health Sciences. Professor Widmer is a Past President of the Australasian Academy of Paediatric Dentistry, as well as the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry.
Craig Munns

Senior Staff Specialist, Endocrinology

Associate Professor Craig Munns is a Senior Staff Specialist in Bone and Mineral Medicine and Endocrinology at The Children's Hospital Westmead and Conjoint Associate Professor in the Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney. He was awarded his PhD through the University of Queensland 2004. A/Prof Munns’ major clinical research focus is the diagnosis and management of primary and secondary bone disorders in children.

Lisa Woodland

Programme Manager, Multicultural Health Service

Lisa Woodland is a psychologist whose current role is Program Manager with the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. Lisa has extensive experience in refugee and mental health service development and the management of refugee and multicultural mental health and health promotion projects.

Michael Harmey

Deputy Principal, Beverly Hills

Intensive English Centre

Michael Harmey is the Deputy Principal at the Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre, a Government high school with a significant number of refugee students. Previously Michael has worked as a consultant in Multicultural Programs at a state level in the NSW Department of Education and Communities.