



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia



Seminar

Listening to the views of
children and young people
from CALD backgrounds

17 March 2016



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Welcome Colin Pettit

Commissioner for Children and Young People





Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Multicultural WA

Dr Casta Tungaraza

Ambassador for Children and Young People





Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Consultation methodology and findings

Jocasta Sibbel

Senior Policy Officer

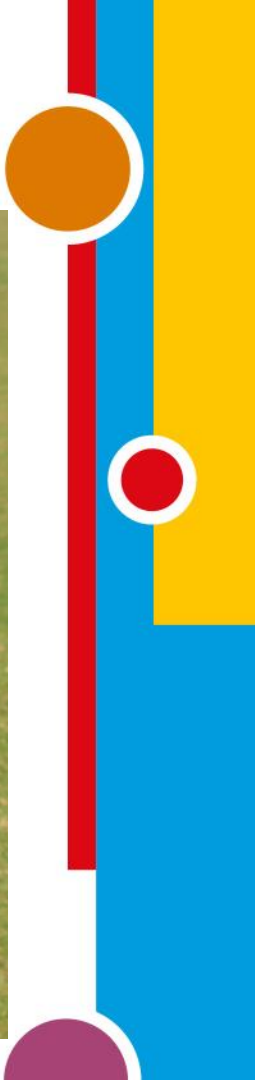




Background

“Thank you. Not many people ask us what we think.” 17 year-old girl, Burma

This project aimed to build on the previous work of the Commissioner to hear directly from children and young people from CALD backgrounds about their lives.





Background

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) - refers to people who identify differently to the Anglo-Australian norm according to birthplace, ancestry, religion, race, ethnicity or language.

Almost **one in five** (18.4%) children and young people were **born overseas** and more than one in 10 (10.6%) speak a language other than English as the main language at home.

Consistent with the Commissioner's statutory functions, the focus was on children and young people who are **particularly vulnerable**, such as **refugees and recent migrants** from non-English speaking backgrounds.



Background

- Highly diverse group
- The issues and challenges they face may vary greatly
- Research shows that some children and young people from CALD backgrounds may experience:
 - **Language barriers**
 - **Feeling torn between cultures**
 - **Intergenerational conflict**
 - **Racism and discrimination**
 - **Pre-migration trauma**
 - **Resettlement stress**



Our approach

- Reference group
- 12 peer leaders supported by YACWA
- Survey (written, spoken and online options)
- Focus groups and interviews





Who participated

- 296 participants
- 45% boys and 53% girls
- From 52 different countries
- Aged 5-17 years
- They have lived in Australia for 1 week to 17 years
- More than 60% speak English at home 'never' or only 'sometimes'





Speak Out

296 children and young people from 50 birth countries discuss:

** the best things about life in Australia*

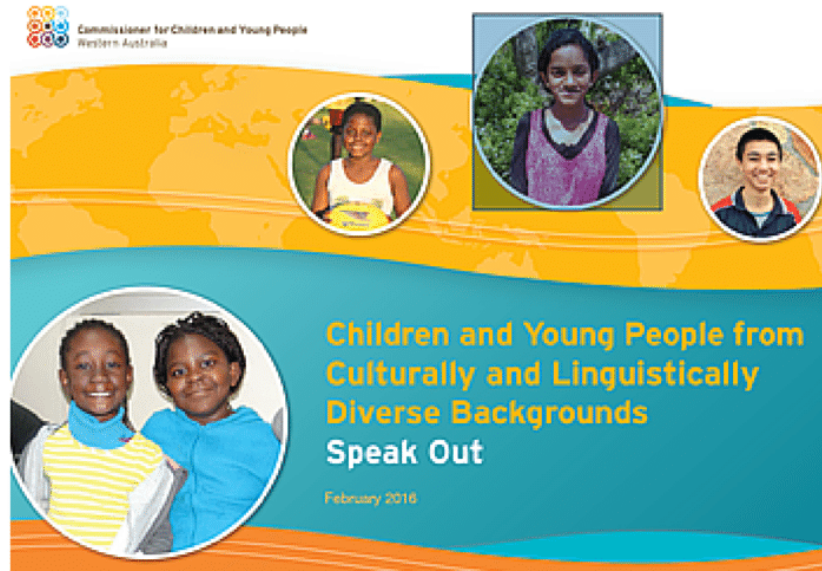
** Settling in*

** Racism, bullying, discrimination & stereotyping*

** How could things be improved?*

** Accessing help and support*

Available at ccyp.wa.gov.au





This Is Me

"The best thing about living here is
that I'm safe." Sujjad, 15

Read the profiles of 15 Western
Australian children and young
people from a CALD background
at ccyp.wa.gov.au





Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Consultation findings

Golda Signal

Consultation peer leader





Key themes

The best things about my life in Australia

- **Family, friends and school**
- **Sport**
- **Freedom, peace and security**
- **Opportunity**
- **Food, housing and health**
- **Multiculturalism**
- **Australian environment**





Family, friends and school

The best things about my life in Australia are “friends, freedom and school.”

12 year-old girl (Zimbabwe)

“At school there are both girls and boys together and I have friends that are girls. There is a big park next to my house and I can play soccer whenever I want with other boys. My teacher is very helpful and kind.”

14 year-old boy (Iran)

“Having a better education, learning new things and being closer with my family members.”

14 year-old girl (Liberia)





Sport

“I play soccer, and I have won best player and top scorer, and I have won a medal for running, for coming first place...”

17 year-old (Afghanistan)

The best things about my life in Australia are “sport, health, family, friends.”

11 year-old boy (Egypt)

Freedom, peace and security

“since coming to Australia I have much more freedom, and girls and women have their rights to do whatever they want to do here so it’s been really good so far.”

17 year-old girl (Afghanistan)





Opportunity

“If I was back home I wouldn’t have as many opportunities as I would here, job-wise, education-wise, and I feel like back home they don’t treat you as equally, but here women fight for equality and things like that.”

15 year-old girl (South Sudan)

Food, housing and health

“Food, water, shelter, meeting new friends. I like the school that I go to.”

14 year-old girl (Africa)





Multiculturalism

“It’s a good country, there’s lots of different cultures so that’s a big positive, and I guess I’ve learned to look at people from, not on the outside, you know, not on the outside, learn to know people before you actually say anything about them.”

18 year-old (Malawi)

The local environment

“Australia is a very clean country, I learnt English well and people are so respectful here.”

11 year-old girl (India)





Key themes

What has been difficult?

- **Learning English**
- **Racism, bullying, discrimination and stereotyping**
- **Settling in to school**
- **Being separated from family**
- **Torn between two cultures**
- **Making friends**
- **Learning how to do things and get to places**
- **Moving and transport**
- **Employment, housing and money**





Racism

Racism “happens pretty much everywhere. There’s always gonna be someone who looks at you like, ‘what is she doing here, shouldn’t she be like in a zoo or something?’ There’s always going to be someone who’s rude about your colour or whatever...”

13 year-old girl (Zimbabwe)

“people not liking us because we're Asian and people telling us to go back to our country.”

12 year-old girl (Thailand)





Key themes

Where do you go when you need help or support?

- **Family, friends and school**
- **Community**
- **Online**
- **Don't know**
- **I don't go to anyone**





How can things be improved?

“Well I think if you’re going to have psychologists, they should probably teach them more on how to approach students from different backgrounds.”

15 year-old girl (Zimbabwe)

“Having people to welcome newcomers and teach them what they need to know about Australia.”

15 year-old boy (Congo)

“Sport helps you make friends.”

12 year-old boy (Pakistan)



How can things be improved?

“English lessons before school.”

14 year-old girl (Africa)

“People should speak slower.”

9 year-old girl

“Allow more opportunities for different cultures to be learnt about and understood.”

17 year-old girl (India)

“Help kids feel more comfortable in their surroundings and educating kids that it's okay to be different.”

14 year-old girl (Uganda)





The future

“Australia is an amazing country and I'm proud to be an Australian.”

11 year-old girl (India)

“It is all very interesting and the experiences I have had in Australia is amazing even though there have been some hard times I have got through them and continued life.”

14 year-old girl (Liberia)

“I love being here.”

14 year-old boy (South Africa)





Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Edmund Rice Centre

Bella Ndayikeze

Edmund Rice Lions





Who is Bella?



- From Burundi
- 19
- Young People Advocate
- AFL coach and athlete
- Creative and enthusiastic



Consultation with the Commissioner for Children and Young People

- The kids loved speaking about their lives and being involved
- It was a good opportunity to express what they are going through
- Approx. 30 young people were involvement in the consultation from Edmund Rice.

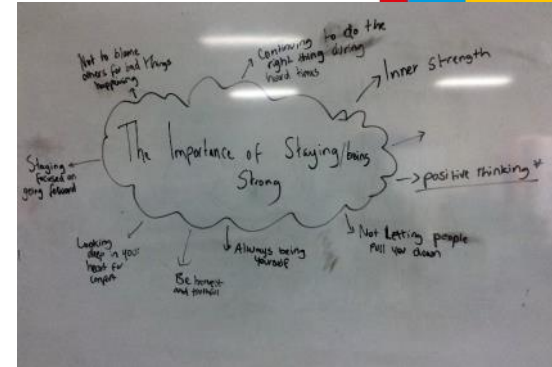




What is Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka's Youth Leadership Programs?



- One Leader, One Community
- From grassroots to the elite
- Opportunity
- Pathways
- Personal and Professional Development
- Creativity
- Coaching



Edmund Rice Local Parks Program

“From the Grassroots to the elite”

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volley Ball
- Swimming
- Netball



Department of
Sport and Recreation



Edmund Rice Special Projects

- Pathway to clubs, education and employment
Projects include:
 - Edmund Rice Youth Leaders – Project
 - Butler Falcons (Girls AFL)
 - Edmund Rice Lions (Mixed AFL team)
 - Edmund Rice Eagles (Basketball)
 - Banksia united (Aboriginal Soccer team – Arts/Leadership)
 - Girrawheen United (Girl's Soccer)
 - Edmund Rice Creative Program (homework etc.)
 - Nature Academy (Bushwalking/Nature education)
 - Coaching Academy

Edmund Rice Youth Leaders



#eryouthleaders



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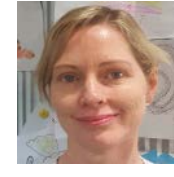
Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Child and Adolescent Health Service

Princess Margaret Hospital Refugee Health Service

Dr Sarah Cherian MBBS(Hons) FRACP PhD
General Paediatrician and Clinical Lead RHS



PMH RHS Multidisciplinary team



PMH Refugee Health Liaison Nurses

Community RHNs

Clinic Nurses



Medical and research staff



Dietician

Social Worker

Dental registrars

Clinical Psychologist

SSEN:MMH Teacher



Volunteers

Language Services

Bus drivers

Ward Clerk

WA Health Excellence Awards Finalist – Overcoming inequities



Princess Margaret Hospital, Child and Adolescent Health Service: Princess Margaret Hospital Refugee Health Service

In 2005 there was a noted increase in the number of humanitarian refugee children being seen at PMH's ED, many presenting with infectious diseases such as malaria or tuberculosis.

The adverse impact on hospital services, as well as the need for holistic, coordinated refugee management pathways for these people led to the establishment of PMH Refugee Health Service.

ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Our-performance/WA-Health-Excellence-Awards/2015-finalists



What does the Refugee Health Service do?

- Aims to provide holistic health care to refugee families
- Assesses, co-ordinates and manages the complex care needs of recently resettled refugee children and adolescents <16 years including those in detention or those released on Bridging Visas
- Links families to appropriate community supports
- Helps establish successful transition to primary health care and/or specialist services as required
- Advocates for refugee and asylum-seeker children
- Undertakes clinical research and audits that will change policy and practice for this cohort

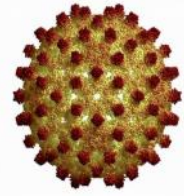
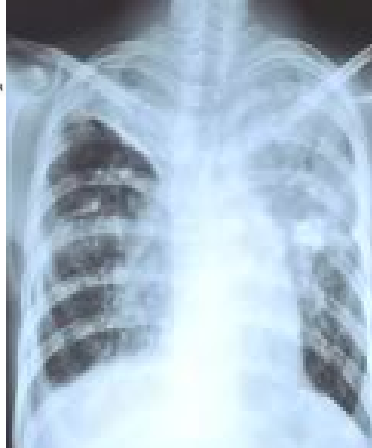
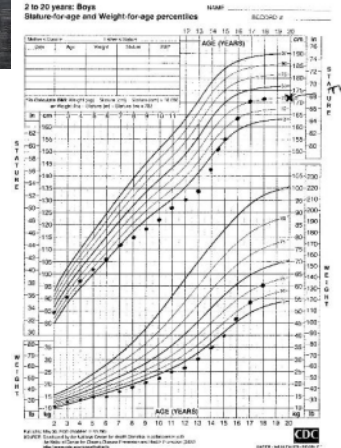
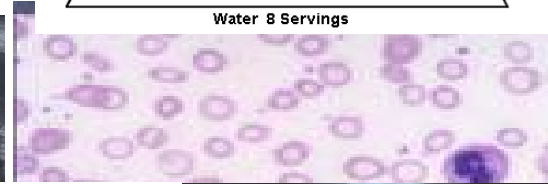
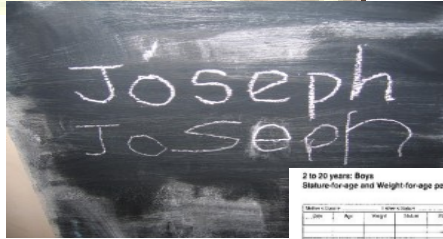
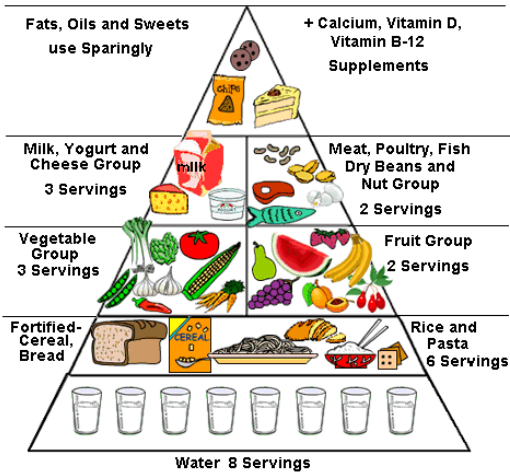


What we do depends on....

- whether the child is acutely unwell
- what's been done already
- what the family's expectations are
- whether we need/have an interpreter present
- whether/how well we know the family
- how recently they arrived
- time limitations



What issues or problems could be raised in a RHC consultation?



PMH RHS research and practice change



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

**Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission Inquiry into Children
in Immigration Detention**

May 2014

Executive Summary

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) commends the Australian Human Rights Commission for initiating their Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, and values the opportunity to provide a submission.

The RACP has long expressed concerns that the detention of children is contrary to their best interests due to the significant and detrimental impact of detention on child health and wellbeing. As of 31 March 2014, there were a total of 1074 children in closed detention; 590 on the Australian mainland, 305 on Christmas Island and 179 on Nauru.¹ The RACP does not support the detention of children.

PMH RHS research and practice change

Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health



doi:10.1111/jpc.12674

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Educational, developmental and psychological outcomes of resettled refugee children in Western Australia: A review of School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health input

Ariel Olivia Mace,¹ Shani Mulheron,² Caleb Jones² and Sarah Cherian^{1,3}

¹Department of Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Child and Adolescent Health Service, ²School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health, Statewide Services, Department of Education and ³School of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, Australia

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Policy on Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health

May 2015

Australian Dental Journal
The official journal of the Australian Dental Association

Caries burden and efficacy of cohort of preschool refugee children

P Nicol,* R Anthonappa,† N King,‡ L Slack-Sm

Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health



doi:10.1111/jpc.12873

VIEWPOINT

Perspective: 'The forgotten children: National inquiry into children in immigration detention (2014)'

Georgia Paxton,^{1,2} Shidan Tosif,^{1,3} Hamish Graham,^{1,3} Andrea Smith,¹ Colette Reveley,¹ Jane Standish,^{1,2,4}

Archives of Disease in Childhood

BMJ

Department of Western Australia
Department of Health



Information Sheet 14: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IS A CHILD PROTECTION ISSUE



Diagnosis, management and prevention of infections in recently arrived refugees

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases

Selective ambulatory management of *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in paediatric refugees

Sarah Cherian and David Burgner

Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health



doi:10.1111/j.1440-1754.2012.02429.x

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Tertiary paediatric refugee health clinic in Western Australia: Analysis of the first 1026 children

Raewyn C Mutch,^{1,2} Sarah Cherian,^{1,3} Kuria Nemba,¹ Janet S Geddes,³ David M Rutherford,¹ Gervase M Chaney^{1,3} and David P Burgner⁴

Box 4 Suggested recommendations for health professionals for the assessment and management of adolescent refugees

1. Introduce the use of a standardised refugee health assessment to include sociodemographic details: transit journey (countries, periods in refugee camps and detention), language, family structure, education history and risk factors for child protection concerns (early maternal age of marriage and circumcision). (Refer to online supplementary appendix 1.)
2. Explore broader aspects of adolescent health (physical, developmental, behavioural, educational and health-risk issues) during initial and ongoing assessments.
3. Develop strong links with colleagues in agencies involved in providing support to adolescent refugees (primary care, tertiary hospitals, social services, educational agencies, governmental bodies).
4. Highlight and advocate for the need to collect health data based on 5 year age-bands (10–14, 15–19, 20–24 years).
5. Make use of available resources for education and training to improve knowledge regarding key challenges encountered in adolescents from a refugee background, specifically acculturation stressors, mental health risks, interrupted education and common physical health concerns.

Health of adolescent refugees resettling in high-income countries

Kajal Hirani,^{1,2} Donald Payne,^{1,2} Raewyn Mutch,^{3,4} Sarah Cherian^{2,4}

RHS Advocacy

Perth medical professionals rally against children in immigration detention

By Briana Shepherd

Posted 13 Nov 2015, 4:27pm

More than 100 health care professionals have rallied against children in detention outside Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) in Perth.

The group consisted of nurses and doctors, all calling for the immediate removal of children from immigration detention.

The movement, called #DetentionHarmsChildren, has already seen rallies in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Darwin.

The PMH Refugee Health Service (RHS) provides care to refugee and asylum seeker children and adolescents.

Kristen Lindsay, a paediatrics registrar for the neo-natal unit at Fiona Stanley Hospital, said she had been inspired by what the rest of the country had been doing.

"Children are our future and our hope for a better future, and they should be protected."

Health professionals call for children out of detention

Friday, November 13, 2015
By Alex Bainbridge, Perth



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKtwRhTlVxqg>





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Thank you for attending.

Keep in touch with the Commissioner:



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Questions?

Colin Pettit, Commissioner for Children and Young People

Golda Signal, Peer leader

Bella Ndayikeze, Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka

Dr Casta Tungaraza, Ambassador for Children and Young People

Dr Sarah Cherian, PMH Refugee Health Service

Jocasta Sibbel, Commissioner for Children and Young People

