

Rural Health and Research Congress

#RHRC2019

Support Services for New Refugee Communities in Regional Areas: Wagga Wagga

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Why regional settlement?

For the community

- Support economic growth
- Addresses labour shortages
- Addresses declining populations
- Enriches local culture
- Enhances meaningful engagement within the community

For refugees

- Affordable accommodation
- Employment opportunities
- Genuine insertion into a welcoming community
- Many originate from regional/rural areas and wish to return to this lifestyle



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Health outcomes for refugees resettling in

Short-term health outcomes: Physiological

Health issue	Cause
Chronic diseases	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Hypertension Hyperlipidaemia
Infectious / parasitic diseases	Hepatitis B, C Tuberculosis Malaria Schistosomiasis Helicobacter Pylori
Nutritional Deficiencies	Folate Iron Vitamin B12 Vitamin D
Anaemia	Iron deficiency (chronic blood loss, intestinal parasitic infections, pregnancies or prolonged breastfeeding) Folate deficiency Haemoglobinopathies (thalassaemia or sickle cell)
Reproductive health issues	Poor pregnancy outcomes (miscarriage, pre-term labour, low birth weight) Complications of gynaecological surgery Complications of female circumcision Sexually transmitted diseases (i.e. chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhoea)
Dental caries	

Short-term health outcomes: Psychological

Short-term health outcomes: Psychological
PTSD
Anxiety
Depression
Low self-esteem
Relationship difficulty
Somatic symptoms of fatigue
Headache
Insomnia
Generalised pain and anxiety
Academic and behavioural

Long-term health requirements:

Long term health requirements
Psychological
PTSD
Depression
Anxiety
Adolescents
Communicable diseases
Sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne viruses
Non-communicable diseases
Nutritional deficiencies
Psychological health
Social isolation
Older age
Depression and anxiety
Social isolation
Women's health
Vitamin D insufficiency
Unplanned births
Gestational diabetes mellitus
Adverse pregnancy outcome including stillbirths

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Refugee resettlement: The Riverina

- Over 1500 refugees settled since 2007




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Services in Wagga Wagga for resettling refugees

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Services in Wagga Wagga for resettling refugees

Humanitarian Settlement Program	Settlement Engagement and Transition Program
First 12 months	12 months - 5 years


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Services in Wagga Wagga for resettling refugees



**Humanitarian
Settlement Program**
First 12 months

- Airport pick up + greeting
- Short-term accommodation
- Community Orientation
- Assist with bank account, Centrelink, Medicare and school services
- Basic household goods package
- Health Assessments
- Sourcing long-term accommodation

**Settlement Engagement and
Transition Program**
12 months – 5 years





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**Settlement Engagement and
Transition Program**
12 months – 5 years


Grant based scheme to provide services required to long-term settlement of refugees

- Youth mentoring
- Water safety
- Tax and legal help
- Culture clubs
- Health promotion
- Enabling cultural practices
- Research to improve outcomes



MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WAGGA WAGGA




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Newly settled communities: Yazidi people

- Yazidi are a Kurdish religious group predominating in Northern Iraq
- 2014 ISIS invaded the community
- Forced conversion to Jihad led to thousands killed
Entire population of men from villages executed
Up to 1000 women and children abducted



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Newly settled communities: Yazidi people

Top ten Ethnicities of Permanent Settlers (All Streams) – Riverina



Ethnicities	Migration Stream			Total	% of Total
	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled		
Kurdish	186	<5	0	187	15.6%
Hazara (Afghan)	127	0	0	127	10.6%
Iraqi	65	0	0	65	5.4%
Kachin	47	0	0	47	3.9%
Chin (Burma)	15	0	0	15	1.3%
Hutu	15	0	0	15	1.3%
Nuba	12	0	0	12	1.0%
Rakhine (Burma)	9	0	0	9	0.8%
Pashtun (Afghan)	8	0	0	8	0.7%
Burmese	8	0	0	8	0.7%
Total	492	<5	0	493	41.3%



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Newly settled communities: Yazidi people



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Newly settled communities: challenges

Wagga Wagga Refugee Clinic

- Every Monday - 1 doctor, nurse, dental clinic and pathology
- Provide initial arrival health assessment + ongoing care



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Newly settled communities: challenges

Wagga Wagga Refugee Clinic

- Every Monday - 1 doctor, nurse, dental clinic and pathology
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Challenges

- Health care shortages
 - Staffing + time
 - Difficulty handing over to GP services
 - Growing influx of refugees
- Translator services



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Newly settled communities: challenges

Translator Services

Translator service – barrier to accessing allied health

- Allied health do not receive free translator service
- Patients have to pay for translators

Translator service shortage

- Yazidi → challenge to access translators with their dialect



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Newly settled communities: challenges

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Translator service shortage

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"We needed a translator urgently to work up a very sick Yazidi patient in ED, and the translator service said it would be a four hour wait...luckily a family member arrived and we translated through broken Arabic... This is an ongoing issue."

- ED Doctor, Wagga Wagga Base Hospital



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Newly settled communities: Yazidi people

Community integration and supporting cultural practices



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Newly settled communities: Yazidi people

Community integration and supporting cultural practices






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New challenges in Wagga



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New challenges in Wagga



Humanitarian Settlement Program First 12 months

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Settlement Engagement and Transition Program 12 months – 5 years

Grant based scheme to provide services required to long-term settlement of refugees

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- Health promotion
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- Research to improve outcomes

Assigned Case Managers



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New challenges in Wagga




400 volunteers

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