



## **Appendix 1**

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.  
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Corbett EJM, Gunasekera H, Maycock A, Isaacs D. Australia's treatment of refugee and asylum seeker children: the views of Australian paediatricians. *Med J Aust* 2014; 201: 393-398. doi: 10.5694/mja14.00279.

## Appendix 1: Online questionnaire

### **Information**

We ask you to participate in this study on refugee and asylum seeker health.

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What is the study about?

\* We are examining current attitudes, knowledge and practices of general paediatricians in relation to healthcare for asylum seekers and refugees.

Who can participate in the study?

\* Any general or community health paediatrician in Australia.

What will the study involve?

\* Completion of a short, de-identified online questionnaire with tick boxes (four parts, plus demographic information). It will take 5 to 8 minutes to complete. This is NOT a test. The questionnaire only needs to be filled out once.

Other information

\* We do not ask any identifying information. You may choose not to answer certain questions if you would prefer. Participation in this project is voluntary and we will assume consent if you submit the survey.

If you have any questions about the conduct of this study, please do not hesitate to discuss them with Elizabeth McGill.

This project has been approved by The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this study, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of the Ethics Committee (02 9845 3017) and quote approval number LNR/13/SCHN/266.

### **Part 1: Terminology**

Ali Khan is a 12 year old boy from Afghanistan who travelled to Indonesia by plane with his 15 year old brother, then by boat to Christmas Island. Ali's brother asked the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for protection from the danger they faced in Afghanistan due to their Hazara ethnicity.

1. Which of the following is the best description for Ali?
  - a. Asylum seeker
  - b. Illegal immigrant
  - c. Refugee

- d. Boat person
  - e. I don't know
2. Right now, who is most likely to be Ali's legal guardian?
- a. The 15 year old brother
  - b. His 30 year old mother in Iran
  - c. The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
  - d. The designated doctor on Christmas Island
  - e. I don't know

Li is a 10 year old girl from China who arrived in Australia by plane with her father on a tourist visa. The day after they arrived, Li's father asked the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for protection from the danger they faced in China due to their membership of Falun Gung.

3. Which of the following is the best description for Li?
- a. Asylum seeker
  - b. Illegal immigrant
  - c. Refugee
  - d. Boat person
  - e. I don't know

## Part 2: Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

Fatima is a 17 year old who has recently fled persecution in Iraq. She comes to see you about a productive cough that has developed over the past few days. She is otherwise well. She informs you that she is not an Australian citizen but she can't remember what visa she currently holds.

4. Which of the following best describes the circumstances in which Fatima would have a Medicare card?
- a. Only if she is a refugee, but not if she is an asylum seeker
  - b. Only if she is an asylum seeker, but not if she is a refugee
  - c. If she is an asylum seeker with one of the bridging visas that allows Medicare rights or a refugee
  - d. As she is not an Australian citizen she will not have a Medicare card
  - e. I don't know

An intern at a tertiary hospital emergency department calls you about one of your patients, Maya, who has just presented in the final stages of labour. Maya is 17 years old and fled persecution in Fiji. She does not have a Medicare card. The intern asks you whether Maya will be required to pay for all medical costs associated with the admission.

5. Which of the following best describes whether Maya will need to pay for the admission?

- a. Maya may be eligible for a fee waiver for maternity services but no other fee waiver program applies. This is linked to Australia's obligations to protect the unborn child
  - b. A fee waiver is available for non-elective services, including Maya's maternity services
  - c. Maya will be required to provide pre-payment for all hospital services
  - d. The hospital administration decides whether it will bear Maya's costs, as no government program applies
  - e. I don't know
6. Dhati Sharma is a 12 year old refugee from Nepal who comes to see you with a urinary tract infection. She is accompanied by a friend as she has very limited English.

Which of the following best describes how you would run the consultation?

- a. See Dhati by herself and rely more heavily on physical findings and investigations, than on her history
  - b. See Dhati with her friend and use the friend as the interpreter
  - c. Arrange for an in-person interpreter for the consultation
  - d. Arrange for a telephone interpreter for the consultation
  - e. Decline to see Dhati
7. Sometimes it is not clear which visa a patient holds, if any, and whether they have a Medicare card. A hotline has been established for doctors to confirm the Medicare eligibility of their patients.

Please select the most appropriate description of your knowledge and use of this service PRIOR to reading this questionnaire.

- a. I did not know about this service and plan to use it now
  - b. I did not know about this service and do not plan to use it
  - c. I knew about this service but have never used it
  - d. I knew about this service and have used it successfully
  - e. I knew about this service and have tried to use it before but have not been successful
8. The Translating and Interpreting Service has a Doctors Priority Line for practitioners treating patients for Medicare rebatable services.

Please select the most appropriate description of your knowledge and use of this service PRIOR to reading this questionnaire.

- a. I did not know about this service and plan to use it now
- b. I did not know about this service and do not plan to use it
- c. I knew about this service but have never used it
- d. I knew about this service and have used it successfully
- e. I knew about this service and have tried to use it before but have not been successful

### **Part 3: Visa and screening process**

Asylum seekers applying for protection in Australia, whether located overseas or in Australia, are required to undergo a medical examination by a Commonwealth medical officer or other approved person.

Mr and Mrs Nazif and their four children (Mohammad 16, Sheeva 14, Wasim 12, Fahran 8) fled Afghanistan for Indonesia, where they were granted refugee status by the United National High Commissioner for Refugees. They are all well and none has any significant past medical history.

9. Which family members would routinely have a chest x-ray before arriving in Australia?
  - a. Mr and Mrs Nazif only
  - b. Mr and Mrs Nazif and Mohammad only, as children under 15 years are exempt from this requirement
  - c. All family members except for Fahran, as children under 11 years are exempt from this requirement
  - d. All family members, as only children under 5 years are exempt from this requirement
  - e. I don't know
  
10. Which family members would routinely have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing before arriving in Australia?
  - a. Mr and Mrs Nazif only
  - b. Mr and Mrs Nazif and Mohammad only, as children under 15 years are exempt from this requirement
  - c. All family members except for Fahran, as children under 11 years are exempt from this requirement
  - d. All family members, as only children under 5 years are exempt from this requirement
  - e. I don't know
  
11. Which of the following do you think best describes the risk that refugee children will transmit infections like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB) to the Australian population?
  - a. High risk
  - b. Moderate risk
  - c. Low risk
  - d. No risk
  - e. I don't know

#### **Part 4: Australia's asylum seeker and refugee policies, including policies on detention**

12. In July 2013, the Australian Government announced a proposal to send all asylum seekers arriving by boat to Papua New Guinea for processing and that "As of today asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia".

Please rate your approval or disapproval of this proposal.

- a. Strongly approve
- b. Approve
- c. Neither approve nor disapprove
- d. Disapprove
- e. Strongly disapprove

13. Australia's refugee program consists of an onshore component (applications processed in Australia) and an offshore component (applications processed in refugee camps outside Australia by the United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)).

On average, how long do you think people wait in these UNHCR offshore refugee camps before resettlement to Australia?

- a. Less than 1 year
- b. Between 1 year and 10 years
- c. Between 10 years and 20 years
- d. Between 20 years and 30 years
- e. I don't know

14. As at June 2012, over 1000 children were recorded as being held in detention in Australia. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) released a statement in May 2013 entitled "Leading paediatricians call for the immediate end to children in detention".

Please rate your approval or disapproval of detention for children.

- a. Strongly approve
- b. Approve
- c. Neither approve nor disapprove
- d. Disapprove
- e. Strongly disapprove

15. The Australian Medical Association's (AMA) submission to the Joint Select Committee into Australia's detention network in September 2011 said "detention of asylum seeker children and their families is a form of child abuse".

Please rate your agreement or disagreement with this statement.

- a. Strongly approve
- b. Approve
- c. Neither approve nor disapprove
- d. Disapprove
- e. Strongly disapprove

### **Your demographics**

16. Position:

- a. General paediatrician
- b. Other

17. Years in clinical practice

- a. < 10
- b. 10-19
- c. 20-29
- d. 30-39
- e. 40+

18. Medical degree qualifications

- a. Obtained in Australia
- b. Obtained overseas

19. Gender:

- a. Male
- b. Female

20. How often do you treat asylum seeker or refugee patients?

- c. More than once a month
- d. Between once a month and once every 6 months
- e. Less often than once every 6 months, but not "never"
- f. Never
- g. I don't know