A Refugee Group Practice

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WHA Insight Forum-MGP 2019
Refugee Maternity Service

History

• Mater Mothers’ Hospitals Brisbane

• Refugee Maternity service commenced November 2008

• Refugee MGP commenced February 2016
Refugee Maternity Service

Model of Care – Aims

• Provision of culturally appropriate service
• Continuity of care and carer
• Guarantee of female attendants antenatally
• Identifying the right language and the right interpreter.
Refugee Maternity Service

Numbers

Refugee Maternity Service

- 2008: 166
- 2015: 294
- Total: 1669
- MGP
- 2016: 120
- 2019: 169 TBC
Midwifery Group Practice

Mater established 2006

- Group antenatal care in community.
- Gestational based groups
- Team of four midwives, cover each other
- Started low risk/low intervention
- Now all risk model
Midwifery Group Practice

Currently 8 MGP teams

• Four mainstream teams
• Two indigenous teams
• Young women
• Refugee
Refugee MGP

The Issues

- Grand multiparity
- Pre-existing and current medical/obstetric issues
- Distrust of medicalised birth
Refugee MGP

Common Social Problems
- Separation from family members
- Domestic Violence/relationship problems
- Coping in a new society
- Housing and Homelessness
- Financial pressures
- Language deficits
- Low health literacy
Challenges

• Organising groups
• Inclusion/exclusion criteria
• Change in model
• Language/communication barriers
• Close communities
• Declining recommended Maternity care
• Spiritual counselling
• Past trauma
Refugee MGP
How are we doing?

- 517 women so far
- High proportion of Multis
- Breastfeeding
- Outcomes
- 30% home from birth suite
Refugee MGP

Lessons Learnt

• Flexible with appointments
• Clustering language groups
• Dedicated clinic space
• Build trust
• Thick skin