

Biographies of speakers and presenters

Andree O'Donnell. Andree is from a Middle Eastern background, half Syrian, half Lebanese, born in Egypt. Andree has worked in the Humanitarian sector since 2002. Joining AMES Australia in 2005, she supports new arrivals from different ethnic groups such as the Chin, Burmese; Afghans; Iraqis; Ethiopians; Sudanese; Egyptians, and Iranians. Since 2011 her role has been HSS Team leader at AMES for the Eastern and South Eastern regions of Melbourne. Andree has a Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) and Bachelor of Social Work.

Christine Teo. Christine is a Mental Health Lead Practitioner in the Partners in Recovery Program at Mind Australia. Her role is to provide care for the most vulnerable people with severe and persistent mental illness to prevent those with complex needs from "falling through the gaps." She looks at the bigger picture and understands the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to delivering community based 'wrap around care'. Christine assists clients in identifying their various needs or barriers and linking them into the appropriate supports required. Christine has a Masters in Counselling and Social Work and has been working at Mind Australia since 2010.

Jasmina Mulugeta. Jasmina has been working as a counsellor for over 20 years. She currently works at Foundation House in the role of Eastern Region Team Coordinator. Jasmina has many years of experience in trauma counselling, training, supervision, group work and individual work with refugees and asylum seekers.

Judy McDougall. Judy is a project officer at the Migrant Information Centre. She has been a member of the MIC team since the start of the organisation in 1999 and, among other responsibilities, she has delivered cultural competency training to a broad range of services throughout that time.

Margaret Clausen - Springboard Social Planning is a social research and community development consultant working particularly in the Eastern and Southern Metropolitan Regions of Melbourne for State & Local Governments, Primary Care Partnerships, Community Health Services & Neighbourhood Centres. Consultancies included evaluations, social environment assessments and the needs of CALD people. Before this Margaret taught sociology and community development at ACU, Swinburne and Chisholm Institute.

Marion Bailes

Marion has worked as a GP for over 20 years, both in private practice and in community health. She has a longstanding interest in caring for socially disadvantaged patients, particularly refugees. She currently works as a GP in the Refugee Health Clinic at EACH social and community health in East Ringwood.

Merilyn Spratling. Merilyn is the Coordinator of Refugee Health Nursing at EACH social and community health, in East Ringwood. She is a leader in refugee health nursing in Australia and has authored two eLearning modules published by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF). She is a member of the Victorian Refugee Health Network and is a Refugee Health Nurse Practitioner.

Samantha Furneaux.

Samantha is a Sector Development and Policy Advisor with the Victorian Refugee Health Network. The Victorian Refugee Health Network brings together stakeholders from the health, settlement and government sectors to respond to the health needs of people from refugee backgrounds, including those seeking asylum.

Sam Navarria.

Sam is the President of Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) since 2013 and for many years Chair of the Migrant Settlement Committee (Eastern Region). Formerly a manager with AMES, Sam has worked mostly in vocational education and training programs addressing the social participation needs of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

Tial Hnem. Tial has been a Settlement Caseworker at the Migrant Information Centre for the past 7 years. Tial is also a professional interpreter in Hakha Chin, a dialect of people from the Chin State in Burma. Tial migrated to Australia as a refugee from Burma and has facilitated many presentations about the Chin community and their refugee experiences.