



# ADVANCING THE EVIDENCE

MIGRANT WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

27-28 February 2020

Novotel Hotel, Melbourne



MULTICULTURAL  
CENTRE FOR  
WOMEN'S HEALTH

# WELCOME

Dear Conference Delegates,

I am delighted that you can join us at the Advancing the Evidence Conference in Melbourne to explore the sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing issues facing migrant and refugee women in Australia.

*The evidence is clear – migrant and refugee women have poorer outcomes in sexual and reproductive health.*

National data shows lower levels of access to pregnancy-related and maternal health services, preventative health information and the broad range of contraceptive options.

We also know that migrant and refugee women have higher rates of a range of conditions from gestational diabetes to pre-eclampsia, and more complications in birthing, including higher rates of caesarian and stillbirth. It's not all facts and figures. Migrant and refugee women have told us consistently that social, economic, cultural and political factors create ill-health in their lives, and that they have interactions with the health system in Australia that are far from equitable.

This conference provides an opportunity for an important national conversation about how we advance the evidence; how we put in place strategies at structural, systemic and cultural levels to bring about equity in health and wellbeing for migrant and refugee women. This is a place to listen, ask questions, learn, contribute, develop in collaboration with us and with key stakeholders from across Australia.

I warmly welcome you to Advancing the Evidence, and I look forward to hearing your important voice over these two days.

- Dr Tamara Kwarteng, Chair of the Board, Multicultural Centre for Women's Health



**The conference takes place on the land of the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) peoples of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present and recognise that the land on which we work and live has never been ceded. Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.**

This conference is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Dr Alice Han

Alice Han, MD MSc FRCSC MPH, is a Canadian obstetrician and gynaecologist with a global health background. Her research focuses on the intersection of violence against women (VAW), reproductive health outcomes and health system response. She has worked in Brazil with a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre, in rural Rwanda with Partners in Health, and as Instructor at Harvard Medical School on the equitable provision of health. Her clinical, public health, and research training sites have included Kenya, Israel, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Philippines, Vietnam, Greece and Ecuador.



She advocates for improved health system response to VAW through her TEDx talk. Dr Han was a technical reviewer for the WHO-UNHCR-UNFPA Clinical Management of Rape Survivors, and was an invited facilitator for an international WHO training workshop in Geneva on Health Response to VAW. She has co-authored a chapter on “Health and Human Rights Through Development” in the forthcoming Oxford University Press volume on Foundations of Global Health & Human Rights, and has lectured to law students at a Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health / O.P. Jindal Global University Summer School on Human Rights and Development. (Photo by Matthew Guillory)

## Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir

Jasmine Abdulcadir, MD PD FECSM is an obstetrician and gynaecologist and founder of an outpatient clinic for women and girls living with Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) at Geneva University Hospitals. She is one of the four members of the international "G3" network on FGM/C and in 2018, was awarded a knighthood from the Italian Republic for her work in fighting and treating the complications of FGM/C.

Dr Abdulcadir teaches at the University of Geneva, Midwife School of Vaud, Lausanne and has trained healthcare professionals working with women and girls living with FGM/C nationally and internationally. She has worked as a consultant for the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, Adolescents and at-risk Populations Team, World Health Organization (WHO), the Swiss Network and Swiss Migration Secretary on FGM/C issues. Her research has been published in several scientific articles and chapters on the improvement of the reproductive and sexual health of women with FGM/C.





# DAY ONE PROGRAM

8.30 – 9.00 AM

Registration, tea and coffee

9.00 – 9.30 AM

Opening and welcome, address from the Minister for Health, Hon Greg Hunt MP

9.30 – 10.15 AM

**Plenary session 1:** Colonisation, immigration & women's health in Australia

**Facilitator:** TBA

**Panellists:** Dr Ruth De Souza, Dr Shakira Hussein, Rebecca Jakobi

10.15 – 10.45 AM

Morning tea

10.45 – 12.15 PM

**Presentations Concurrent Sessions:**

<b>SESSION 1</b> <b>Tackling difference and disparity</b>	<b>SESSION 2</b> <b>Communities and communication</b>	<b>SESSION 3</b> <b>Understanding contexts and perspectives</b>
<p><b>Dr Kristina Edvardsson, Latrobe University</b></p> <p><i>Indications of gender bias at birth among migrant communities in Australia</i></p>	<p><b>Helen Rogers, UNSW, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District</b></p> <p><i>A Bridge to Health: The Cross Cultural Workers in Maternity and Child and Family Health for women and families from migrant and refugee backgrounds</i></p>	<p><b>Dr Paula Hernandez and Jess Elsworth, WHISE</b></p> <p><i>African women's understanding of sexual and reproductive health</i></p>
<p><b>Associate Professor Shanti Raman, South Western Sydney Local Health District</b></p> <p><i>Negotiating the Perinatal Healthcare Maze: Similarities and Differences between Refugee Women's Experiences in High Income Countries vs Low Income Settings</i></p>	<p><b>Gabrielle Bennett, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne</b></p> <p><i>Communicating better with women who live with chronic hepatitis B: Using "teach-back" improves understanding</i></p>	<p><b>Dulcie Paina, TRUE Relationships and Reproductive Health</b></p> <p><i>Understanding domestic violence, sexual and reproductive coercion in the Melanesian context</i></p>
<p><b>Elisha Riggs, Murdoch Children's Research Institute</b></p> <p><i>Collaborative partnerships to tackle disparities in perinatal care for refugee background women</i></p>	<p><b>Dr Asvini Subasinghe, SPHERE The Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women, Monash University</b></p> <p><i>Improving contraceptive practices and access to medical abortion for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds: A culturally responsive intervention study</i></p>	<p><b>Dr Humaira Maheen, University of Melbourne</b></p> <p><i>Young African Muslim's perceptions and knowledge about sexual health services in Australia</i></p>
	<p><b>Helen Rogers, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District</b></p> <p><i>Engaging with International Students to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs</i></p>	

# THURSDAY 27 FEB 2020

12.15 - 1.15 PM

Lunch

1.15 - 2.45 PM

**Presentations Concurrent Sessions:**

SESSION 4 Advancing the conversation on FGM/C	SESSION 5 Models of care and support	SESSION 6 The power of prevention
<p><b>Dr Virginia Mapedzahama African Women Australia Inc.</b></p> <p><i>FGM or Female circumcision? Whose voice matters?</i></p>	<p><b>Dr Siobhan Bourke</b></p> <p><i>Sexual and reproductive health hub servicing Melbourne's west</i></p>	<p><b>Professor Angela Dawson University of Technology Sydney</b></p> <p><i>Evidence to Prevent Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A systematic review and content analysis</i></p>
<p><b>Dr Odette Kelada, University of Melbourne</b></p> <p><i>Options for Clitoral Reconstruction after FGM/C?</i></p>	<p><b>Dr Carolyn Njue, University of Technology Sydney</b></p> <p><i>The role of the Maternity Liaison Officer in provision of primary health care: A values-based service model</i></p>	<p><b>Dr Jane Yelland, Murdoch Children's Research Institute</b></p> <p><i>Ending preventable stillbirth and better bereavement care for migrant and refugee families</i></p>
<p><b>Abdi Maolin, Cohealth</b></p> <p><i>Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) for Men</i></p>	<p><b>Andrea Creado and Rachel Pearce, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Service</b></p> <p><i>Creating a safe and culturally sensitive health clinic for migrant women</i></p>	<p><b>Nikolina Zonjic, Family Planning NSW</b></p> <p><i>Increasing cervical screening awareness amongst refugees through peer-education and a localised media campaign</i></p>

2.45 - 3.15 PM

Afternoon tea

3.15 - 4.00 PM

**Plenary session 2:** The Personal is Political: Things I wish my doctor knew

**Facilitator:** Chiedza Malunga

**Panellists:** Hangama Hamid, Sundus Ibrahim, Jinghua Qian, Desiree Tan

4.00 - 5.00 PM

**Plenary session 3:** A multidisciplinary approach to caring for women affected by Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting - lessons from Australia and Switzerland

**Facilitator:** Boipelo Besele

**Panellists:** Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, Marie Jones, Dr Khairul Mohamed-Noor, Nigisti Mulholland, Associate Professor Wendy Vanselow

5:00 - 5:15PM

Closing/wrap up

5.15 - 6.00 PM

Networking and drinks

6:00 - 6.10 PM

Official Opening Address

6.10 - 6:25 PM

Keynote (international) speaker, **Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir**

6.25 - 6.40 PM

Launch of the NETFA Campaign 2020

6.40 - 6.50 PM

Testimonial: **Fatu Sillah** and **Medina Idriess**

6.50 - 7.20 PM

Live performance: **Maria Sangiorgi**

7.20 - 9.00 PM

Networking/Entertainment

**NETFA  
CAMPAIGN  
LAUNCH**

# DAY TWO PROGRAM

8.30 – 9.00 AM Registration, tea and coffee  
 9:00 – 9:30 AM Recap and reflections on Day 1

9.30 – 10.15 AM **Plenary session 4:** Advancing Rights: Sexual and Reproductive Health of Migrant and Refugee Women. **Keynote Address** by Dr Alice Han

10.15 – 10.45 AM Morning tea

10.45 – 11.30 AM **Plenary session 5:** Climate, distance, and settling in the regions: Bringing focus to migrant and refugee women’s health in rural and regional Australia  
**Facilitator:** Dr Siobhan Bourke **Panellists:** Dr Emma Fulu, Bu Gay Pah Thei, Zubaidah Mohamed Shaburidin, Louella Villadiego-Logge

11.30 – 12.15 PM **Plenary session 6:** Enhancing Reproductive Autonomy for Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia  
**Facilitator:** Bonney Corbin **Panellists:** Dr Jasmin Chen, Sophie Keramidopoulos, Diana Sayed, Tizita Yohannes

12:15 – 1:15PM Lunch

**1:15 – 2:45PM Presentations Concurrent Sessions:**

<b>SESSION 7</b> <b>Amplifying the voices of regional Australia</b>	<b>SESSION 8</b> <b>Experiences of access</b>	<b>SESSION 9</b> <b>Creating solutions</b>
<p><b>Lorna Gillespie and Amal Kowhah</b>  <b>Women's Health Goulburn NE, Greater Shepparton Sudanese and South Sudanese Women's Group</b></p> <p><i>Contraception not Chlamydia!</i></p>	<p><b>Jane Middleton, Mercy Health and RMIT</b></p> <p><i>Pregnant, Parenting, and a long way from home: International students in Victoria accessing maternity, paediatric and early parenting care</i></p>	<p><b>Associate Professor Phillipa Middleton, NHMRC Centre of Research</b></p> <p><i>Addressing the disparity of stillbirth in Australia: The Safer Baby Bundle</i></p>
<p><b>Erin Plumb, Melaleuca</b></p> <p><i>Stories from the "Top End": Examining the barriers around sexual and reproductive health of women from refugee or migrant backgrounds living in the Northern Territory</i></p>	<p><b>Rosie Brennan, Women's Health in the North</b></p> <p><i>Sexual Health Information Pathways Project for International Students (SHIPP): Extending the evidence base regarding the sexual and reproductive health issues faced by female international students studying in Victoria</i></p>	<p><b>Natalie Arambasic, Diabetes Victoria</b></p> <p><i>Diabetes in pregnancy: the lived experience of women born in India</i></p>
<p><b>Louise Holland, Bendigo Community Health Services</b></p> <p><i>Integration: Increasing Access for Refugee Women's and Sexual Health Services</i></p>	<p><b>Touran Shafiei Judith Lumley Centre and Latrobe University</b></p> <p><i>Perinatal mental health needs of immigrant and refugee women: care provider's perspective</i></p>	<p><b>Beccah Bartlett, Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation</b></p> <p><i>Improving health literacy through empathy and digital innovation: A community-based participatory research approach to exploring "access" within Melbourne's Arabic-speaking, refugee communities</i></p>

# FRIDAY 28 FEB 2020

## Presentations Concurrent Sessions cont'd:

### Heather Magawgwa

*Needs of women from African diaspora communities in Victoria, Australia who are living with HIV*

### Intesar Homed and Rosie Brennan

*Side by Side - Providing the missing link between sexual and reproductive health and respectful relationships education for communities affected by female genital cutting*

2:45 - 3:15 PM

Afternoon tea

3:15 - 4:15 PM

**Plenary session 7:** Advancing the Evidence - where to from here?

**Facilitator:** Dr Adele Murdolo

**Panellists including:** Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, Cecilia Barassi-Rubio, Andrea Creado, Dr Alice Han, Dr Tamara Kwarteng

4:15 - 4:30 PM

Closing/Wrap up/Thanks

## WHILE YOU'RE IN MELBOURNE...

**Melbourne is just one of those cities where you'll always be doing something fun. Whether you're locally based or visiting, we're sure there's something for you. We've put together a little list of what we'll be doing this weekend... perhaps we'll see you there?**

### 1) Check out *Dance Reel* at the Immigration Museum

*Dance Reel* is an experimental program of dance, film, performance and installation. Projected over 19th century walls, it showcases the works of Amrita Hepi, Angela Goh, Bhenji Ra, Cloudy Rhodes, Gabber Modus Operandi and Shelley Lasica.

### 2) Have dumplings at Shandong Mama

Quietly wedged inside Midcity Arcade, Shandong Mama is truly a hidden gem. You'll have to try their fish, vegan zucchini or 'Melbourne' dumplings - a wild but delicious mix of seafood and chicken. Yum!

### 4) Catch a performance at Asia TOPA: Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts

Asia TOPA is a festival from January to March that celebrates artists from the Asia-Pacific. There are over 280 music performances, plays, films and installations. Running across 46 different venues, it's a great way to explore Melbourne!

### 5) Go to the *Two Strong Sisters Connected* exhibition

Comprising of over 38 works by Victorian Elders and artists Aunty Eileen Harrison and Aunty Rochelle Patten, *Two Strong Sisters Connected* will take you on an incredible journey through stories of sisterhood, culture and country.

### 6) Watch an AFLW match

Come along and support women in footy! This weekend, you can join in on the action and catch your heroes play through the fourth round. We hope you brought your colours!

### 7) Visit the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health offices!

If you happen to be around until next week, why not visit us in Collingwood? We have a feminist library comprising of hundreds of books by migrant and refugee women. We love visitors and are always up for a chat!

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Natalie Arambasic** is a Health Promotion Officer at Diabetes Victoria passionate about improving community health and wellbeing, including the management and prevention of diabetes within culturally and linguistically diverse populations. In 2016, Natalie completed a Bachelor of Public Health and Health Promotion at Deakin University.

**Cecilia Barassi-Rubio** is the Director of the Immigrant Women's Support Service, a specialist domestic violence and sexual assault support service for migrant and refugee women. Cecilia has worked in policy and program areas with the Violence Prevention Team (QLD government) and other program areas in Brisbane, Logan and Ipswich. Cecilia was the inaugural court support worker at the Brisbane Magistrates Court, employed by Legal Aid Queensland.

**Beccah Bartlett** is a Registered Nurse–Midwife, PhD candidate at Monash University and the founder of Shifra, a web app designed to improve sexual and reproductive health access for refugee and migrant populations. Beccah utilises design thinking tools and applies an intersectional feminist approach to all her research and community partnerships.

**Gabrielle Bennett** (RN, RM, Grad. Dip. CHN, Grad. Dip. Women's Health, MPH) is a Registered Nurse/Midwife with experience working in the areas of women's health, drug use & blood borne viruses, refugee health, remote Aboriginal communities and homelessness. She is currently the Victorian Viral Hepatitis Educator based at St Vincent's Melbourne.

**Boipelo Besele** is the Senior Project Officer for the NETFA and MWA national projects led by the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health. Boipelo has previously worked for the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration and various community organisations in Botswana, South Africa, Malaysia and Australia. Her key areas of work include communications, coordination and advocacy.

**Dr Siobhan Bourke** is a Sexual Health Physician, currently working for The University of Melbourne at the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health managing online learning for rural health professionals and in the Department of Medical Education as the Director of the Sensitive Physical Examination Program. Clinically she works at CoHealth in Laverton in one of the state government funded Sexual and Reproductive Health Hubs.

**Rosie Brennan** is the Sexual and Reproductive Health Coordinator at Women's Health in the North, managing a variety of projects aimed at improving the sexual and reproductive health of women in the northern metropolitan region. She has a Master of Public Health – specialising in sexual and reproductive health through the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Nursing through ACU National.



# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Dr Jasmin Chen** is the Research, Advocacy and Policy Manager at Multicultural Centre for Women's Health. She has a PhD in Cultural Studies, and a Graduate Diploma of Education. Jasmin has worked in a number of research, project and communication roles, including projects relating to preventing violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and intersectional approaches to migrant women's health.

**Bonney Corbin** is an urban and regional planner with postgraduate qualifications in violence against women policy and conflict resolution practice. She works at Marie Stopes Australia as their Senior Policy Officer. Bonney has fifteen years' experience working in violence prevention in global healthcare contexts. She is the Chair of Violence Prevention Australia, an organisation seeking to prevent violence from within health systems.

**Andrea Creado** has been the CEO of Ishar for over 13 years. Andrea focuses on the development and delivery of policies, programs, projects, resources and services for culturally and linguistically diverse people with complex health needs. She holds graduate and postgraduate degrees in Human Development, and Psychology.

**Professor Angela Dawson** is an NHMRC Translational research fellow with national and international experience examining approaches to counselling women with FGM/C. She is the recipient of the Sax prize for research impact. Angela is a convener and member for various women's health organisations and an Associate Editor for BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

**Dr Ruth DeSouza** has extensive experience as a clinician, researcher and academic. She is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing, and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Digital Transformation of Health at the University of Melbourne. Ruth helped set up the maternal mental health team in Central Auckland and has undertaken community-engaged, participatory research in Aotearoa New Zealand about migrant mothering, barriers to the uptake of cervical cancer screening, and refugee women's experiences of sole parenting. Her current research relates to race, gender and digital health and how cultural safety can be mobilised in Australia.

**Dr Kristina Edvardsson** is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, La Trobe University who leads and participates in research projects in seven countries. Her primary research interests are in mother and child health. She is a registered nurse with a master's degree in Nursing and a PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health.

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Jess Elsworth** is a Health Promotion officer at WHISE with a Bachelor of Public Health and Health Promotion from Deakin University. Jess leads and coordinates the regional sexual and reproductive health strategy Good Health Down South 2018–2021. She has a strong interest in sexual and reproductive health rights and access, and gender equity.

**Dr Emma Fulu** is a researcher, feminist activist and leading expert on violence against women. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Equality Institute, a global feminist agency dedicated to the prevention of violence against women and girls. She is also the co-founder of VOICE, a non-profit organization that works with women and girls in conflict and disaster settings all over the globe to amplify their solutions to violence in their own communities.

**Lorna Gillespie** is Co-convenor of Steps to Success, providing pre-employment and employment assistance to Shepparton Sudanese, South Sudanese and Afghan women. Lorna has extensive experience working with regional women from different cultures and has a background in project delivery, training and mentoring.

**Hangama Hamid** works at Brotherhood of St Laurence on a 'Prevention of Family Violence in CALD Communities' Project. She was a project assistant at AMES Australia to improve CALD awareness about the NDIS. Hangama has worked as public health practitioner in different international organisations in Afghanistan, including work as a reproductive health officer and a national consultant in the Ministry of Public Health.

**Dr Paula Hernandez** is a researcher at WHISE. Paula completed her PhD in 2016 from La Trobe University focusing on Somali Women's experiences of birthing and pregnancy in Australia. She has a strong interest in sexual and reproductive health as well as prevention of violence against women from diverse backgrounds.

**Louise Holland** has a background in midwifery and sexual and reproductive health. She works at Bendigo Community Health Services and coordinates the state Government funded Loddon Mallee STI/BBV Program in partnership with the Victorian Aids Council. She also works Bendigo Health as a Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Infectious Diseases Service.

**Intesar Homed** is a Health Promotion Officer at Women's Health In the North passionate about making a difference to women's health and wellbeing. Intesar is responsible for delivering the Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP). Homed has graduate and postgraduate degrees in science, policy, human services and community development.

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Dr Shakira Hussein** is a writer and researcher for the National Centre for Excellence in Islamic Studies, The University of Melbourne. Her book "From Victims to Suspects: Muslim women since 9/11" was included on the list of Top Ten Books: the International Affairs Summer Reading List for 2019. She was awarded the Brenda Gabe Leadership Award by Women with Disabilities Victoria for 2020 and was recently shortlisted for the Hazel Rowley Literary Award to write her memoir Nine Eleven-itis.

**Sundus Ibrahim** is a Kurdish former refugee who came to Australia in 2001 with her family. Sundus has completed her studies in inclusive education through educational support and is studying Youth Work at university. She is passionate about discrimination, mental health, inclusive education, and advocating to building an inclusive society that allows all people - regardless of their story - the chance to thrive.

**Medina Idriess** is the Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) worker at MCWH and the Royal Women's Hospital, and has over 20 years' experience advocating for women who have experienced FGM/C. She has a Graduate Diploma in Social Science and has delivered bilingual health education at MCWH since 1999.

**Rebecca Jakobi** is a Djabwurrung women born and living in Wathawurrung Ballarat. Rebecca has experience in the community services sector, particularly in children living in out-of-home care. She has worked with the Djabwurrung Embassy to protect sacred women's birthing country from a highway duplication. Rebecca is passionate about protecting country, sacred sites and song lines to share with the next generation: she has seen the benefits of children connecting with culture as it gives a sense of identity and grows children's confidence.

**Marie Jones** is a registered nurse and midwife, cervical screening and immunizer accredited. She has been working in women's health for over 35 years and has had a special interest in caring for women affected by FGM/C since the FARREP program was introduced at The Women's Hospital. She was involved in formation of The African Women's Clinic in 2010 and has been the Coordinator since 2011. Marie also works as an Associate Nurse/ Midwife Unit Manager in the Emergency Department at The Royal Women's Hospital.

**Sophie Keramidopoulos** is a counsellor, currently working at Marie Stopes Australia as the Counselling Manager, with postgraduate qualifications in counselling and skills in facilitation. Sophie has been working in the family and relationships and sexual and reproductive health sector for 10 years.

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Amal Kowhah** is a fierce advocate in Australia and Sudan currently studying aged care in Shepparton. Amal was a community leader in the 2015 Melbourne University FMC research, speaking at educational workshops and participating in community development and media. Amal's lived knowledge of cultural practice has featured in many newspaper articles.

**Dr Tamara Kwarteng** is the Chair of the Board at Multicultural Centre for Women's Health. She was the Deputy Director of the Centre for International Health at the Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health in Melbourne and was Team Leader of the Pacific Regional HIV&AIDS Project spanning 14 countries. Tamara lived in Fiji for over ten years and was appointed Pacific Regional Director of the Burnet Institute's Pacific Office in 2009.

**Dr Humaira Maheen** is an early career researcher with interest in migration-related health inequalities. In her research, she is trying to understand "healthy immigrant effect" in Australian population, when it started to decline, and what factor contribute to deterioration of migrant health in the long run.

**Heather Magawgwa** is a Peer Engagement & Research Coordinator at Positive Women Victoria. She facilitates tailored peer support for women living with HIV and coordinates Volunteer Peer Support Training Programs and outreach group support. She also engages women living with HIV from marginalised communities and diverse backgrounds to inform strategic planning and research programs for Positive Women Victoria.

**Chiedza Malunga** is a public health professional with experience in refugee health, sexual and reproductive health promotion and research in multicultural communities. Chiedza has worked in statewide programs across Victoria, ranging from individual and community-based programs through to policy and advocacy initiatives.

**Abdi Maolin** is a FARREP (Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program) Community worker at cohealth. Abdi has worked in various roles in community development and community health over the last 17 years. He has an educational background in Science and Public Health and is interested in health equity and social justice.

**Dr Virginia Mapedzahama** is a researcher, policy analyst and community change-maker. She has years of researching diversity, difference and social cohesion in Australia. She explores this in the context of subjective experiences of migration, diaspora, blackness, race, racism and ethnicity, sexuality, gendered violence and intersectionality.

**Jane Middleton** is a part-time PhD candidate at RMIT University. She is also a Social Work Senior Clinician at the Mercy Hospital for Women (MHW) in Heidelberg.



# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Associate Professor Philippa Middleton** is an executive member of the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre of Research Excellence to reduce stillbirths and improve care for families when a child is stillborn. Philippa co-leads the Pregnancy and Perinatal Care Pillar of SAHMRI Women and Kids, in Adelaide.

**Dr Khairul Mohamed-Noor** is an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist from Melbourne. Since 1998 she has worked as a Gynaecologist at the Royal Women's Hospital and is currently a consultant in the Pelvic Floor Unit. Her interest in FGM/C started during her specialist training at the Royal Women's Hospital. She continues to provide support in a consultancy role and sees the more complicated patients affected by FGM/C.

**Nigisti Mulholland** is a nurse-midwife and social worker, is a FARREP Coordinator at the Royal Women's Hospital. She has an honours degree in sociology and a master's degree in social work. Nigisti has worked on many projects, mostly concerning immigrant and refugee women and children's health, including FGM/C.

**Dr Adele Murdolo** is the Executive Director at the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health. Adele has a background in feminist research, a PhD in history and women's studies on migrant and refugee women's feminist activism in Australia, and has specific expertise in intersectionality, violence against women and women's health. She is also an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne.

**Dr Carolyne Njue** is a Chancellor's post-doctoral research fellow, undertaking research into maternal and child health services for refugees in NSW. Carolyne has worked for the Population Council to end FGM/C and has undertaken research on reproductive health among women in low income countries, adolescents and those with HIV/AIDS.

**Dulcie Paina** is a Culturally Responsive Health project officer at True Relationships and Reproductive Health. Dulcie has worked as a registered community psychologist with the Pasifika, refugee and migrant communities in New Zealand for 9 years. Dulcie also volunteered extensively in non-profit organisations including being a Justice of the Peace.

**Rachel Pearce** is a Health Services Manager at Ishar, responsible for health programs and a team of health professionals. She has over ten years' experience working with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and has led to the expansion of many programs on new exercise groups, chronic disease prevention and domestic violence at Ishar.

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Jasmine Phillips** has extensive national and international experience working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities as a community development worker. Jasmine is currently working at cohealth as part of the Refugee Health Team and manages the bi-cultural project to develop their skills in community-led practice, advocacy and self-determination.

**Erin Plumb** is a Registered Nurse working as the Health Services Coordinator at Melaleuca, with a background in surgical, HDU/ICU and public health. Plumb has been co-facilitating a pilot introducing Multicultural Health to the Northern Territory through capacity building among health professionals and service providers.

**Jinghua Qian** is a genderfluid writer who has reported on racism, queerness, the Chinese diaspora, and transgender health for Australian and international publications including Sydney Morning Herald, SBS, and Sixth Tone. Jinghua is not a woman but they have largely experienced the health system as a woman and they're here today to talk about that weirdness.

**Associate Professor Shanti Raman** is a Director of Community Paediatrics at South Western Sydney Local Health District and Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales. Shanti is interested in the health of refugees, Indigenous people, and child and maternal health. She is responsible for clinical Child Development and Child Protection services and directs the research and training.

**Dr Elisha Riggs** (BAppSc, Hons, PhD) is a Senior Research Fellow, Team Leader and Co-leader Refugee and Migrant Research Steam, Intergenerational Group, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Honorary Senior Fellow, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne. Elisha is a public health researcher with expertise in the co-design and evaluation of public health interventions informed by community and service engagement.

**Helen Rogers** is a registered nurse/midwife with 25 years' of national and international experience with Mediciens Sans Frontieres and the World Health Organisation. She is currently the Early Parenting Program Coordinator with South Eastern Sydney Local Health District focusing on addressing inequities in accessing maternity and child health services.

**Maria Sangiorgi** is an Artist, Performer Dance Movement Therapist, Humanitarian & Teacher. She holds an Advanced Diploma from the International Dance Therapy Institute of Australia and is a professional member of the Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australia. She is a certified practitioner of Functional Analysis Body Psychotherapy, the creator of Embodied Bellydance and a facilitator of Sacred Dance processes.  
[www.dancingisis.com](http://www.dancingisis.com) [www.dancemovementtherapy.com.au](http://www.dancemovementtherapy.com.au)

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Diana Sayed** is the CEO of Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, a leading voice for equality without exception, serving Muslim women in Australia. She is an international human rights lawyer having worked in both Australia and the U.S. and has worked as an advocate and campaigner for over 10 years. As an Afghan-Australian woman from refugee migrant parents, she has the lived experience of being a visible Muslim woman of colour in Australia.

**Zubaidah Mohamed Shaburidin** is a Research Assistant in Culture and Rural Health at the Department of Rural Health at the University of Melbourne. Zubaidah has a strong interest and passion for social justice and has worked closely with community organisations, health professionals and service providers on inclusive care practices.

**Dr Touran Shafiei** is a Senior Research Fellow at Judith Lumley Centre, La Trobe University. She has a clinical background in midwifery, and has worked on a range of studies, including a study of bilingual labour companions for immigrant women and of perinatal mental health needs of immigrant and refugee women. Touran is working on a number of projects to support women with anxiety and perinatal and postnatal depression.

**Fatu Sillah** is passionate about raising awareness through public speaking and sharing her experience as a survivor. She intends to educate the broader community around the dangers of FGM, especially about warning signs of children at risk of FGM. Her ultimate vision is to see an end to the practice of FGM. Fatu has just finished a degree in social work. She wants to work with youth, her ambition is to teach adolescents about FGM, empowerment, leadership, self-respect and equal rights.

**Dr Asvini Subasinghe** is a researcher with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health in young women in Australia, India and Sri Lanka. She is currently a Research Fellow at the Department of General Practice, Monash University on culturally and linguistically diverse women's access to medical abortion services through primary care.

**Desiree Tan** is a student and artist who explores the intersection between narratives of illness, violence and bodily experience. She is currently conducting a narrative medicine project investigating the barriers facing survivors of sexual and domestic violence to accessing breast cancer screening services.

# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Bu Gay Pah Thei** is a Community Development Worker at Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. She holds a nursing degree and has over 7 years' experience in paid and volunteer community roles. Bu Gay arrived in Australia as a refugee at the age of 12 and is part of the Karen community. As well as English, Bu Gay speaks Karen and Burmese.

**Dr Jane Yelland** is a Senior Research Fellow in the Intergenerational Health group at Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne. She co-leads the Refugee and Migrant Research Program to strengthen services and improve health and health care outcomes for refugee and migrant families.

**Associate Professor Wendy Vanselow** is a Women's Health Specialist General Practitioner. She is head of the Psychosexual Medicine Clinic at the Women's and consultant in the menopause and contraceptive clinics. She has studied at the Key Centre for Women's Health and has a PhD on menstrual cycle mood disorders using a biopsychosocial approach. She has postgraduate training in psychological medicine, sexual medicine, couple counselling and vulvar dermatology. She also has postgraduate qualifications in obstetrics and gynaecology.

**Louella Villadiego-Logge** is a Project Officer at the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, conducting research on the barriers, challenges and support systems migrant and refugee women and service providers in regional and rural Victoria experience in accessing reproductive health services. She has a background in international human rights law and has been active in policy and advocacy in the not-for-profit sector, particularly in the areas of women's health rights and international development.

**Tizita Yohannes** is a public health advocate, she currently works in primary prevention for a women's health service. Tizita is also a consumer advisor with Marie Stopes Australia and tutors in public policy at the University of Melbourne. Tizita holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences (sociology and gender studies) and a Master of Public Policy and is skilled in the areas of training and facilitation with a passion for grassroots community development and reproductive justice.

**Nikolina Zonjic** is the Senior Health Promotion Officer at Family Planning NSW. She currently leads the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse team in planning, delivering and evaluating a wide range of targeted health promotion projects including media campaigns, community and professional education, research and advocacy activities.



# PLENARY SESSIONS

## **Plenary session 1: Colonisation, immigration & women's health in Australia**

**Day One, 27 February 2020, 9.30 am - 10.15 am**

This session will examine the inequities in the health system within the context of colonisation and migration. It will explore the on-going impacts of colonisation and significant health disparities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. It will also consider how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health models, strategies, research and best practice can inform our approach to migrant women's health.

**Facilitator:** TBA

**Panellists:** Dr Ruth De Souza, Dr Shakira Hussein, Rebecca Jakobi

## **Plenary session 2: The Personal is Political: Things I wish my doctor knew**

**Day One, 27 February 2020, 3.15 pm - 4.00 pm**

Women-centred approaches in health service delivery can sometimes neglect the many differences among women that are shaped by race, culture, ethnicity, socio-economic background, sexuality, disability and many other factors. It can also reinforce a binary understanding of sex and gender that marginalises intersex, trans and gender diverse people. Ideally, health systems should acknowledge and respond to these differences while at the same time addressing the multiple and intersecting health inequities experienced by marginalised women. But what happens when the health system falls short of the ideal and what can we learn from experience? In answer to these questions, panellists will share their personal stories of accessing the health system and provide suggestions for how migrant and refugee women's health could thrive.

**Facilitator:** Chiedza Malunga

**Panellists:** Hangama Hamid, Sundus Ibrahim, Jinghua Qian, Desiree Tan

## **Plenary session 3: A multidisciplinary approach to caring for women affected by Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) - lessons from Australia and Switzerland**

**Day One, 27 February 2020, 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm**

This panel will look at clinical responses to FGM/C and innovation in caring for women living with FGM/C. Global and local practices will be discussed, featuring experts from the Royal Women's Hospital and international guest speaker, Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, an obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Geneva University Hospitals.

**Facilitator:** Boipelo Besele

**Panellists:** Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, Marie Jones, Dr Khairul Mohamed-Noor, Nigisti Mulholland, Associate Professor Wendy Vanselow

# PLENARY SESSIONS

**Plenary session 4: Keynote Address Dr Alice Han**  
**Day Two, 28 February 2020, 9.30 am - 10.15 am**

**Plenary session 5: Climate, distance, and settling in the regions: Bringing focus to migrant and refugee women's health in rural and regional Australia**  
**Day Two, 28 February, 10.45 am - 11.30 am**

Migrant women and their families living in rural and regional areas face unique challenges which can have significant impacts on their sexual and reproductive health. The effects of our changing climate have also caused significant instability in areas already marginalised by distance and lack of infrastructure. This panel will examine how we can provide sexual and reproductive health services to migrant women in the context of the current ecological, political and social climate.

**Facilitator:** Dr Siobhan Bourke

**Panellists:** Dr Emma Fulu, Zubaidah Mohamed Shaburdin, Bu Gay Pah Thei, Louella Villadiego-Logge

**Plenary session 6: Enhancing Reproductive Autonomy for Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia**  
**Day Two, 28 February, 11.30 am - 12.15 pm**

Reproductive autonomy means that a woman can make informed choices about her own body, which enables her to be at the centre of her own healthcare journey. However, a woman's reproductive autonomy can be limited by reproductive coercion that occurs within intimate relationships, health systems and broader political structures. This panel will examine how migrant and refugee women can be supported in their contraceptive options, pregnancy decision making and provided access to reproductive healthcare.

**Facilitator:** Bonney Corbin

**Panellists:** Dr Jasmin Chen, Sophie Keramidopoulos, Diana Sayed, Tizita Yohannes

**Plenary session 7: Closing: Advancing the Evidence - where to from here?**  
**Day Two, 28 February 2020, 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm**

This panel and workshop will bring the whole conference together to look at key directions and recommendations for advocacy, practice and research.

**Facilitator:** Dr Adele Murdolo

**Panellists include:** Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, Cecilia Barassi-Rubio, Andrea Creado, Dr Alice Han, Dr Tamara Kwarteng

# NETFA FGM/C CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

**Day One, 27 February 2020, 5:45pm - 9:00pm**

All conference delegates get free entry to a cocktail reception to launch the National Education Toolkit for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Awareness (NETFA) campaign to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C).

Join us for an inspiring evening of discussion, networking, entertainment and food with international and national guest speakers, **Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, Medina Idriess** and **Fatu Sillah**.

## About the campaign

All women and girls who experience or are at risk of FGM/C have the right to high quality, safe, and person-centred health care.

The NETFA campaign targets health professionals, specifically General Practitioners, maternal and child health nurses, midwives, obstetricians and gynaecologists in promoting culturally sensitive and optimal care for migrant women and girls affected by FGM/C.

**Let's all work together to end  
#FGM/C.**



National Education Toolkit for Female Genital  
Mutilation/Cutting Awareness



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