

7 June 2023

Letter of Support: Development of stand-alone guidelines for the ethical conduct of research with people from migrant, refugee, and refugee-like backgrounds in Australia.

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you on behalf of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) to express our strong support for the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership's (MRHP) proposal for the development of stand-alone guidelines for the ethical conduct of research with people from migrant, refugee, and refugee-like backgrounds. We believe such guidelines are crucial in ensuring the fair and ethical treatment of people from these communities in research conducted in Australia.

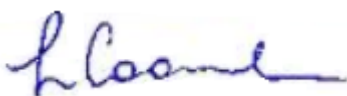
The Public Health Association of Australia is Australia's peak body for public health. We advocate for the health and well-being of all Australians and lead the conversation in public health policy across Australia. Our campaigns are based on evidence-based policy statements which are developed collaboratively with our members, branches, and special interest groups. Our more than 1800 members represent over 40 professional groups interested in the promotion of public health. We have branches in every State and Territory who work with our National Office to provide policy advice, organise events and mentor young public health professionals.

As the leading professional association for public health in Australia, PHAA is committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of all Australians, including those from diverse backgrounds. By establishing specific guidelines, we believe researchers will be better equipped to navigate the complexities associated with research involving migrants and refugees and guidelines can serve to enhance the protection of the rights, well-being and dignity of research participants and communities, promoting trust and transparency in the research process.

Guidelines addressing key considerations such as informed consent, confidentiality, cultural responsiveness, and community engagement would serve to support and enhance stronger collaborations between researchers and community groups and organisations for the good of all. Moreover, the development of these guidelines will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of migrant and refugee health.

We commend the MRHP for their leadership in championing this important initiative, which the PHAA are committed to working with them on and supporting. And we call on the National Health and Medical Research Council to endorse and support the development of these guidelines.

Yours sincerely



Honorary Assoc Prof Leanne Coombe

PHAA Policy and Advocacy Manager