

### Optimising health and learning in refugee students Building Partnerships

#### Introduction

Each year, over 7 000 newly arrived refugee and migrant students who speak a language other than English are enrolled in NSW public schools. Of these, over 1 200 newly arrived refugees are enrolled in 14 public high school Intensive English Centres (IECs).

A needs analysis in May 2010 identified:

- no routine health assessment for refugee students
- 80% of adolescent refugees had at least one identified health condition
- <25% of IEC students surveyed had an identified GP

#### Aim

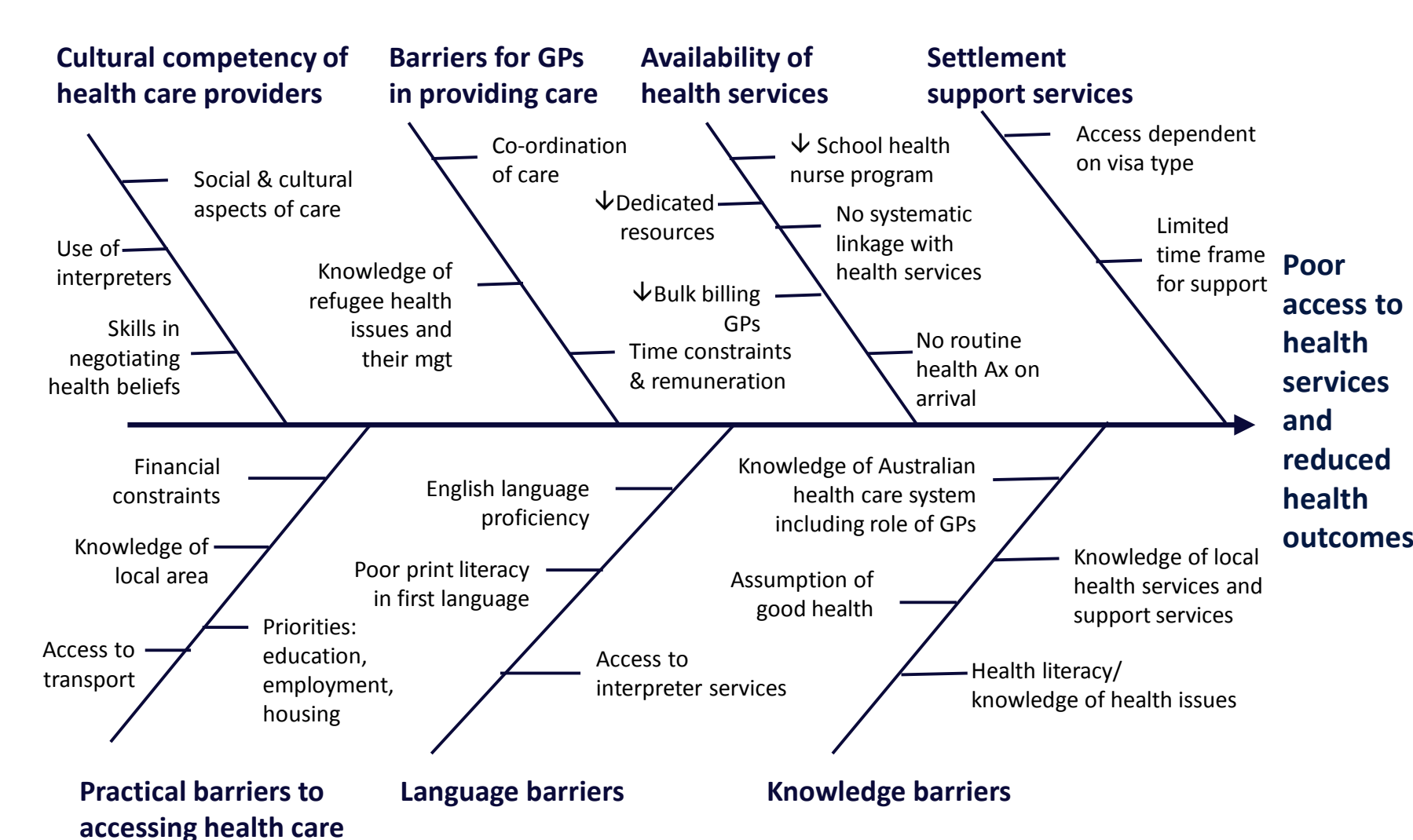
To develop a sustainable model of care that improves health and educational outcomes in refugee and other vulnerable students by evidence-based early detection and management of health conditions.

#### Method

- steering committee formed in May 2010 and funding secured from a NAB Schools First Award
- integrated health pathway was developed including partnerships with local GPs and tertiary referral services
- a culturally sensitive nurse-led school-based screening program commenced March 2011 at Beverly Hills IEC
- program included on-site blood collection, health education, hospital tours and intensive follow-up of high risk students
- qualitative and quantitative evaluation occurred
- Implementation at a second site at Evans IEC commenced October 2012
- funding for a third site at Fairfield IEC secured mid-2013 via a second NAB Award

*Text is clear and concise but diagrams are the opposite – too small and too much detail*

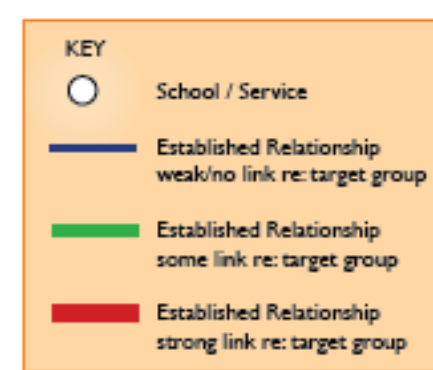
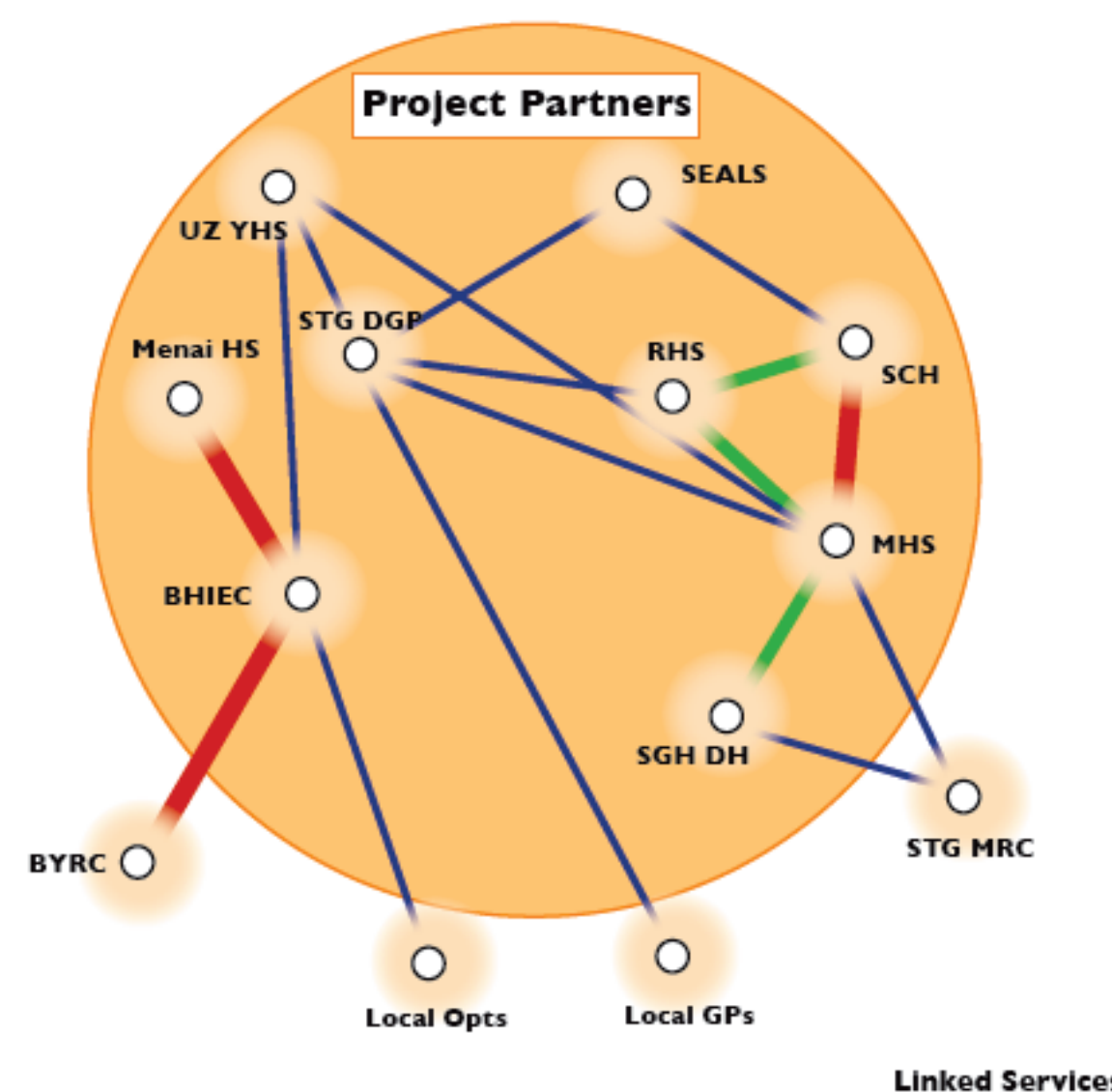
#### Barriers to care for refugee students and their families



#### Partnership Outcomes

##### Baseline Network Analysis: May 2010

Strength and Number of relationships between services supporting refugee and other vulnerable new arrival students.



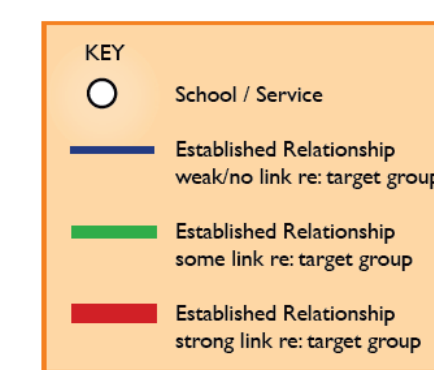
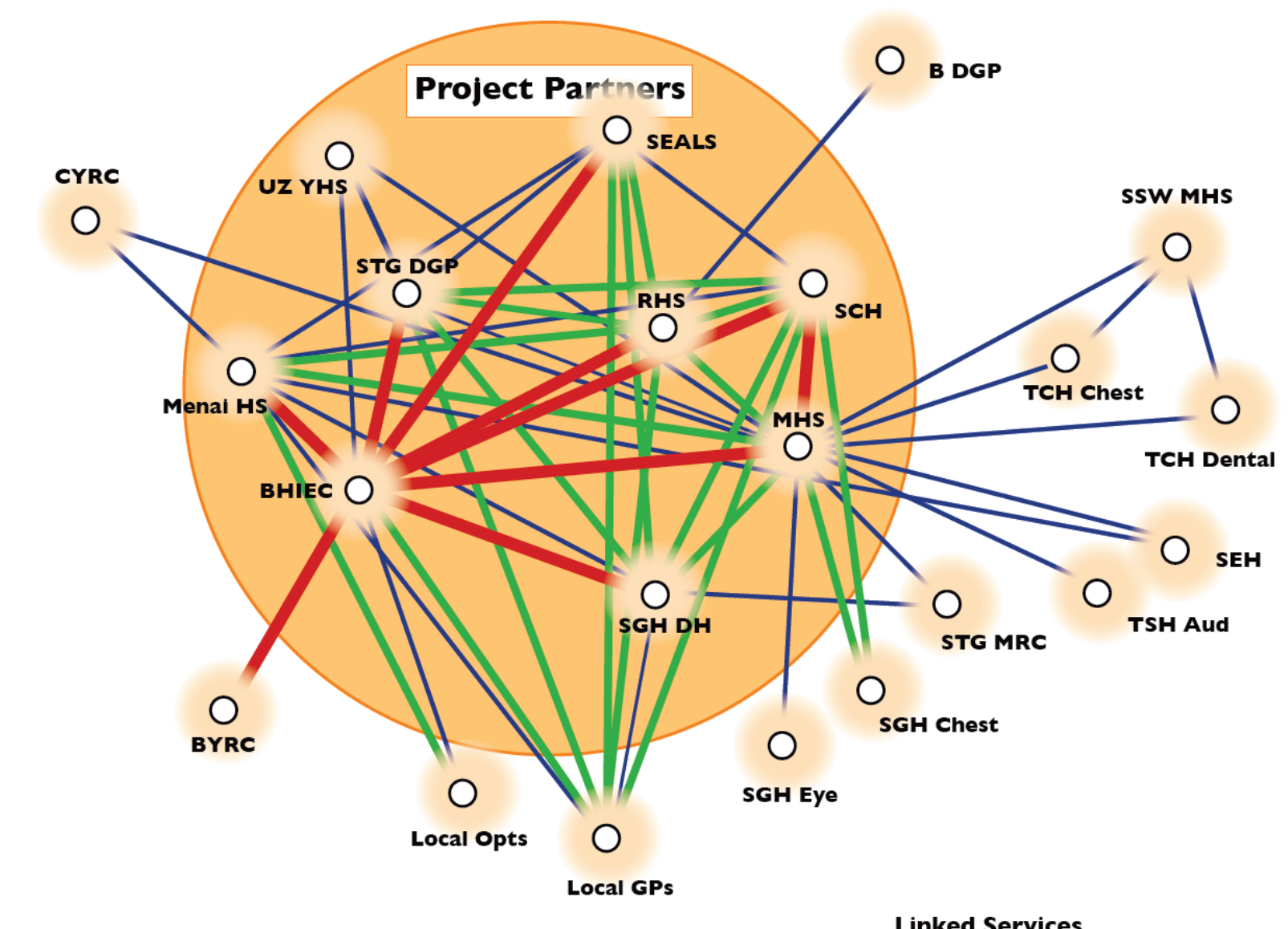
##### Abbreviations

SES MHS	South Eastern Sydney Multicultural Health Service
BHIEC	Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre
SCH	Sydney Children's Hospital
Menai HS	Menai High School
STG DGP	St George Division of General Practice
UZ YHS	Up Zoned Youth Health Service
RHS	NSW Refugee Health Service
SGH DH	St George Hospital Diversity Health Team
STG MRC	St George Migrant Resource Centre
S&SW MHS	Sydney and South West Multicultural Health System

BYRC	Bilmore Youth Resource Centre
BDGP	Barkston Division of General Practice
SEH	Sydney Eye Hospital
Local Opt.	Local Optometrists
SGH Chest	St George Hospital Chest Clinic
SGH Eye	St George Hospital Eye Clinic
TSH Aud	The Sutherland Hospital Audiology Clinic
TCH Chest	Canterbury Hospital Chest Clinic
TCH Dental	Canterbury Hospital Dental Clinic
CYHS	Connect Youth Health Service

##### Current Network Analysis: June 2011

Strength and Number of relationships between services supporting refugee and other vulnerable new arrival students.



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#### Results

Over 169 children screened to date

- >90% had one or more health conditions
- 75% nutritional or vitamin deficiencies
- 30% vision or hearing problems
- 25% infectious diseases

Qualitative data shows:

- improved student engagement in learning
- parents better informed about health issues
- teachers better able to recognise and support individual learning needs
- significant improvement in strength and number of organisation partnerships (see diagram above)

#### Conclusion

- The project design emphasised simplicity, low operational cost and a partnership approach to identify and treat health issues
- A highly vulnerable population is efficiently identified and serviced
- The program directly addresses a range of policies and strategies including NSW: 2021 goals
- It is demonstrated to be highly transferrable to different geographical locations with different partners
- It exemplifies NSW Health CORE values

#### Acknowledgements

Program partners include

- Sydney Children's Hospitals Network
- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Beverly Hills, Evans and Fairfield IECs
- South Eastern Sydney Medicare Local
- WentWest Medicare Local
- Menai and Evans High Schools
- NSW Refugee Health Service
- South Eastern Area Laboratory Services (SEALS)
- SydWest Multicultural Services
- St George Migrant Resource Centre



Picture courtesy of Settling Dust: An Exhibition of Photographs by Christopher Lawrie

