

A New Refugee Health Plan for NSW: Planning for the future

Planning Processes

Review of Refugee Health Plan, Strategic Directions in Refugee Health (1999)

Examples of achievements over the past ten years:

- Significant on-arrival information, education and health promotion has been provided.
- State-wide Refugee Health Service (RHS) has been established.
- New refugee assessment and paediatric clinics have been established by local health services and children's hospitals.
- STARTTS (Service for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) has developed additional clinical, community and rural outreach services.

Examples of issues identified:

- Need for universal on-arrival health assessment
- GPs need up skilling in refugee health
- Improved interpreter use and access
- Improved rural access to refugee services
- Improved oral health access
- Additional support for asylum seekers
- Improved mainstream competency

Outcomes of Community and Provider Consultations Towards the New Plan

Examples of the many issues raised included:

- Need for policy accountability for refugee health
- Immunisation
- Need for improved access to affordable medications
- Nutrition and food security
- Health literacy
- Torture, trauma and mental health access
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Data and research developments

Literature Review on Models of Care in Refugee Health

Some of the issues in the literature:

- Health status disparity of refugees
- Little rigorous assessment of models of care
- Health impacts vary by country of origin, while people are in transit/exile and after resettlement
- Children have special needs
- Initial need for assessment on-arrival with specialised follow-up of particular physical and mental health problems
- Health promotion/prevention and primary care

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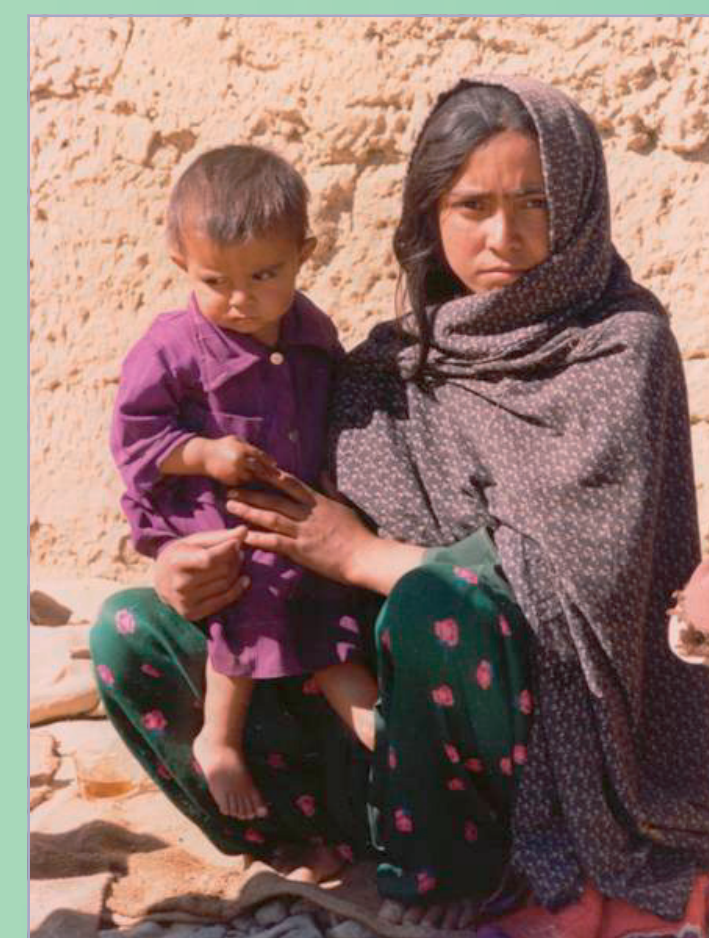
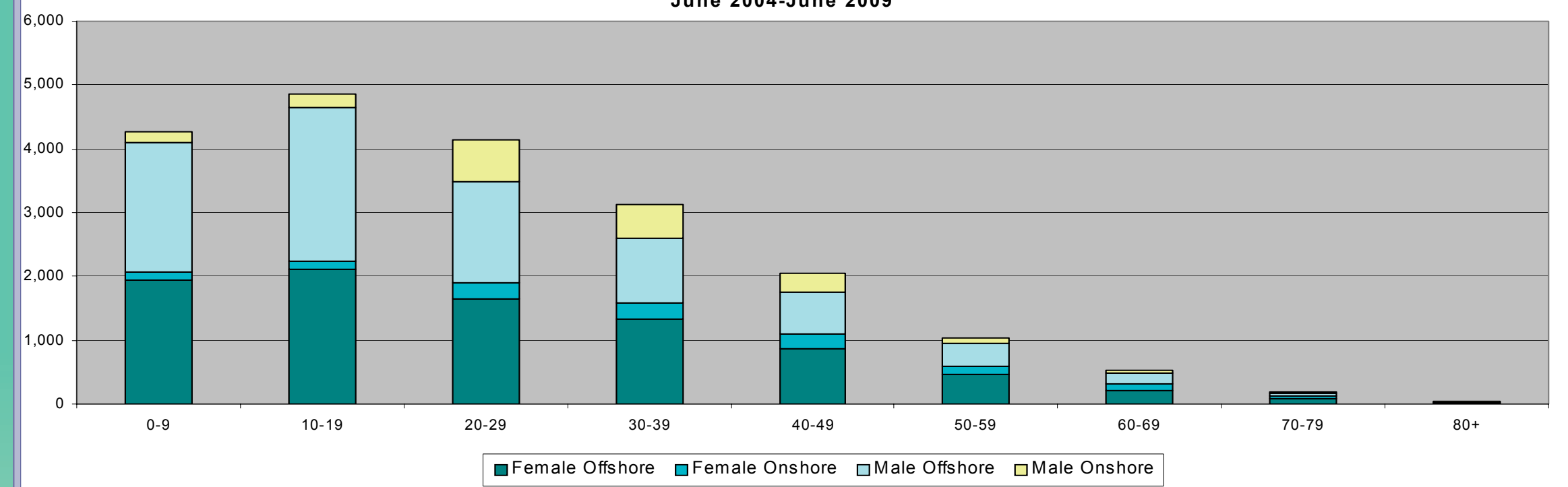
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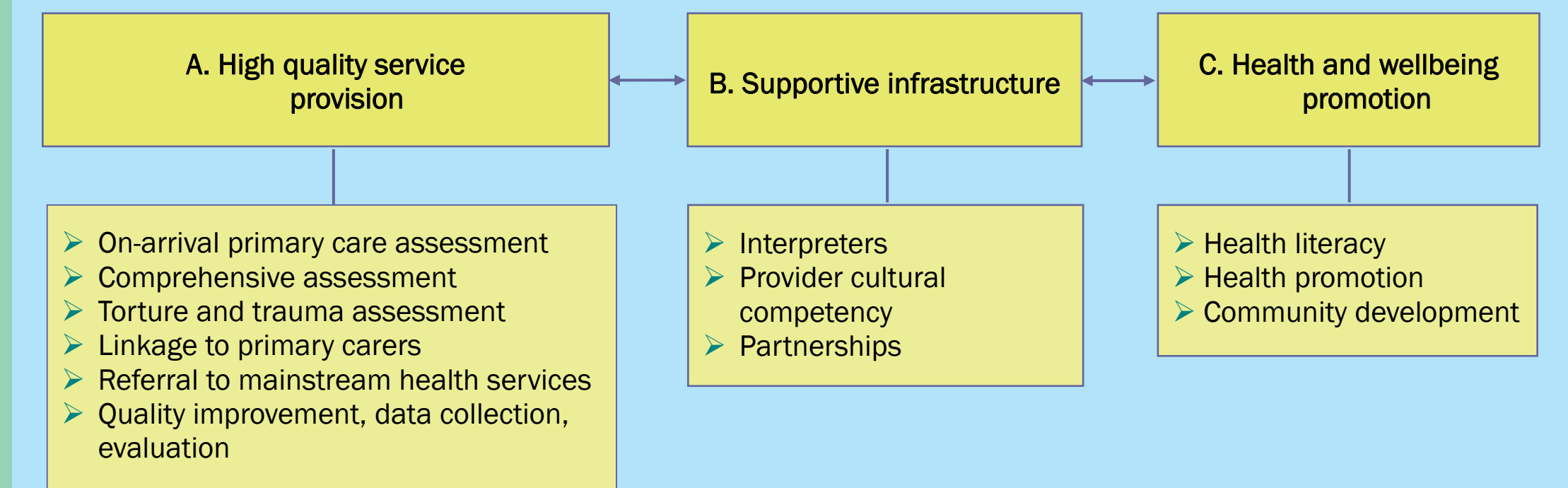
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Demography

Age and gender of humanitarian entrants to NSW, June 2004-June 2009

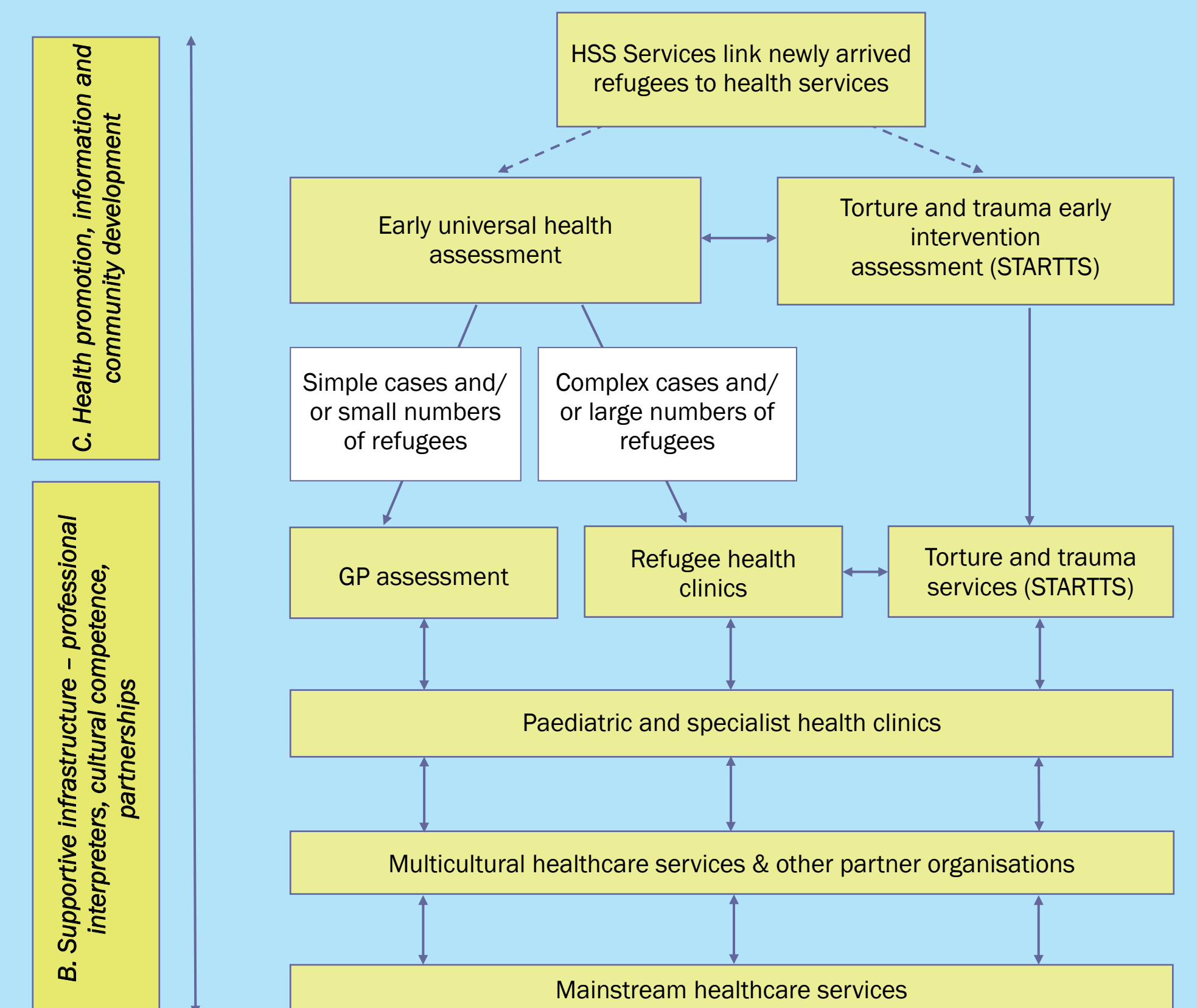


Model of Care

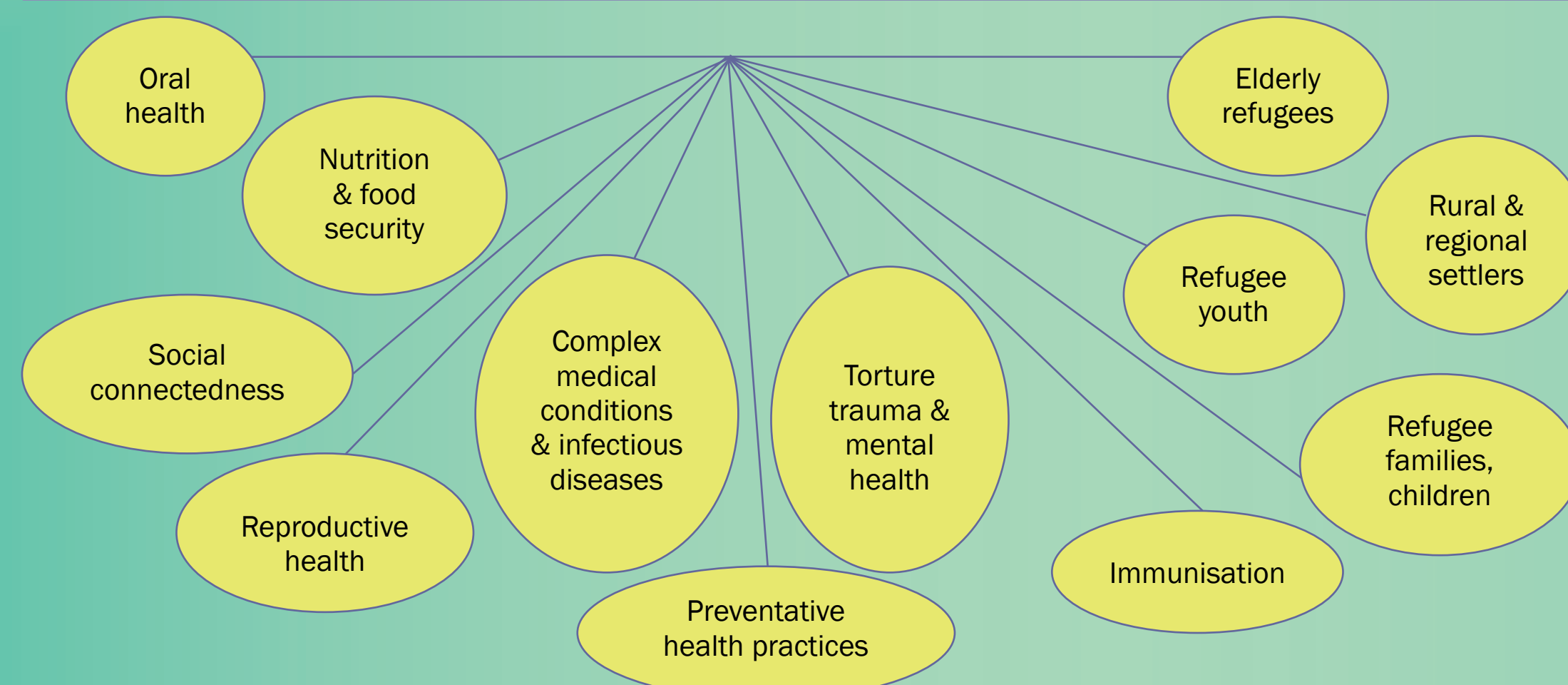


C. Health promotion, information and community development

B. Supportive infrastructure - professional interpreters, cultural competence, partnerships



Health Status Issues



Planning Priorities

Strategic Priorities

- To develop health policies and plans which prioritise and are inclusive of refugee health
- To ensure, in collaboration with General Practitioners and other partners, universal access to health assessment and assertive follow-up for all newly arrived refugee and humanitarian entrants
- To promote refugee health and wellbeing
- To provide high quality specialised refugee health services
- To develop specific, targeted responses to refugee need within mainstream services
- To foster the provision of high quality mainstream care to refugees
- To foster research and evaluation relevant to the health of refugees