



# QPASTT

Queensland program of assistance  
to survivors of torture and trauma

**COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT: QPASTT continues delivering services to individuals, families and communities from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.**

QPASTT supports the public health efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We have developed a contingency plan based on expert advice from the Queensland Department of Health, and the Queensland and Commonwealth governments.

The plan focuses on protecting the health and safety of clients, staff and stakeholders while ensuring that our clients and communities from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds continue to be supported to the best of our capacity throughout the duration of the pandemic.

Our plan takes into consideration client and community vulnerability safeguards to ensure vital service delivery is maintained, including individual counselling, group work and community development initiatives.

We have suspended our face-to-face counselling, group work, community activities and events. From Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020, most of our staff will be working from home and continue communicating with and supporting clients and communities using phone, video-conferencing and other technologies.

We encourage referral agencies and individuals to continue referring clients to our service. We are working with government and other stakeholders to ensure gaps in service provision for refugee and asylum seekers are addressed during the pandemic, and communities receive reliable and culturally appropriate information regarding COVID-19.

We are continuously monitoring the situation and assessing changes in circumstances, and will adapt and communicate our service delivery plan based on both government advice and our organisation safeguards.

On behalf of QPASTT, we thank you for your ongoing support and wish you, your families and communities well.

Jamila Padhee and Ignacio Correa-Velez  
Co-CEOs

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