

4TH

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND REFUGEE TRAUMA RECOVERY IN RESETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

SHARED KNOWLEDGE, SHARED HEALING:
RESPONDING TO TRAUMA IN A DIVIDED WORLD



4-6 MAY 2026



ICC SYDNEY



fasstt
The Forum of Australian Services
for Survivors of Torture and Trauma

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) invites individuals and communities from refugee backgrounds, clinicians, practitioners, researchers, thinkers and policy makers to submit an abstract for the 2026 Australia and New Zealand Refugee Trauma Recovery in Resettlement Conference.

The voices of people from refugee backgrounds will be central to the Conference and people with lived experience are strongly encouraged to submit their abstracts across any of the Conference streams. Abstract submissions will be due August 31st, 2025.

CONFERENCE STREAMS

Stream 1: Knowledge and Innovation

Papers in this stream will highlight the work and expertise of practitioners and service providers delivering trauma-informed and trauma-focused services to refugees and asylum seekers in a variety of settings that include detention centres, prisons, schools, primary healthcare and specialised and mainstream mental health settings. This stream will also encompass developments in research and evaluation into clinical and other client-facing work. Papers relating to cross-disciplinary projects will also be featured in this stream.

Stream 2: Influencing the Context

This stream addresses the interplay between refugee and asylum seeker communities and service providers, and the broader context at local, state, national, and international levels. There is a particular emphasis on the way in which service providers can use strategies such as advocacy and research to shape these contexts in a way which promotes client wellbeing. Papers which focus on community capacity building, and other methods of building resilient communities in the context of resettlement would also fit within this stream.

Stream 3: Sustaining the Work

This stream focuses on strategies to support individuals (including employees) and organisations responding to torture and refugee trauma. Papers in this stream may explore approaches to clinical supervision, staff well-being, and mitigating burnout or vicarious trauma, with a particular emphasis on caring for those providing care, community leaders and bicultural workers. Submissions may also address organisational resilience, workforce development, the role of peer workers, university partnerships, and internship programmes. Contributions on training and professional development for staff, volunteers, and interpreters are also encouraged, as well as innovations in resource development. A key focus will be reinforcing the value of this work to broader society, ensuring its impact is recognised and sustained.

Stream 4: Age-Specific Approaches

Papers in this stream may explore best practices for working with specific demographic sectors, including early childhood, children and adolescents, school-based programs, youth teams, adults, families, and elderly clients. Submissions may also examine the transitions individuals face across different life stages, offering insights into how services can support clients as they navigate these changes. Additionally, this stream invites discussions on multi-generational approaches, recognising the interconnected experiences of refugee families and communities. Contributions on effective interventions, age-appropriate therapeutic models, and strategies for fostering resilience across generations are encouraged.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts on:

- Projects using a range of approaches and research methodologies including mixed methodologies
- Quantitative and qualitative projects (including case reports)
- Work which highlights gaps in research and knowledge where there is emerging evidence or concern
- Planned, ongoing or completed projects.
- Authors with lived experience as a refugee or asylum seeker are particularly encouraged to submit

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

All submissions will be double blind reviewed, so please ensure that there is no information identifying authors or affiliated organisations in abstracts submitted.

Length and abstract format:

1. Maximum 300 words.
2. References should not be included.
3. For conference abstracts of studies involving human participants, it is an expectation of the organising committee that all procedures for the protections of their rights, informed consent as well as relevant institutional Human Research Ethics Committee approvals have been obtained and associated procedures followed. Authors will need to confirm during the submission process that their research complies with any and all applicable ethical guidelines.
4. Authors are asked to complete in the application process the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration by selecting either: "I declare I have a competing or conflicting interest in the topic area of the submitted abstract. All reported competing interests are clearly indicated in the abstract." Or "I declare I do not have a competing or conflicting interest in the topic area of the submitted abstract."

CONTENT OF ABSTRACT

The abstract should include:

- The background to the study or program (i.e. why this study or program is considered useful or necessary),
- The target population of the study or program,
- How the study was carried out or what strategies or interventions were planned or used in implementing the program,
- How many people were involved in the study or program and for how long,
- Any challenges that were identified in carrying out the study or implementing the program,
- The results or outcomes of the study or program and how these results or outcomes were measured.

Abstracts should not include:

- Identifying information of any authors or affiliated organisations, in keeping with the double blind review process
- Submissions not adhering to the above criteria will not be considered.

Choice of stream:

Authors will choose under which stream their abstract should be considered.

Multiple abstract submissions:

Authors may submit more than one abstract proposal for the Conference. However, each abstract must be submitted separately clearly stipulating the presenting author.

SUBMISSION OPTIONS

Choice of format:

Authors may choose to submit their abstract for an oral presentation, workshop or poster.

Abstracts that are not selected for an oral paper presentation will be considered for a poster presentation. The posters will be displayed the conference foyer area for the duration of the conference.

Oral Presentations

Oral presentations will be 30 minutes in total, comprising 20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for questions. Abstracts not selected for paper presentation may be offered a poster presentation.

Workshops

Full (6 hours) or half day (3 hours) preconference workshops will be held on Monday 4th May 2026. Workshops will provide an opportunity for a more in-depth approach to one of the five main conference themes.

Posters

The dedicated poster session will provide an interactive forum for authors to discuss their work. Posters will be displayed in the level 4 foyer at the ICC throughout the conference.

Poster guidelines, including dimensions, requirements for set up and design guides will be distributed on acceptance of abstracts for poster presentation.

GRADING GUIDELINES

The abstract will be graded on technical merit, relevance and significance.

Technical merit refers to whether the title and content of the abstract is concise, clear, and informative, whether the abstract states why this study or program is important, whether the abstract clearly describes the approach used in the study or program and whether the abstract provides a clearly stated conclusion or take-home message.

To be relevant, the abstract must be clearly related to one or more of the conference streams:

- Stream 1: Knowledge and Innovation
- Stream 2: Influencing the Context
- Stream 3: Sustaining the Work
- Stream 4: Age-Specific Approaches

Significance refers to how much of an impact the presentation is likely to have on how participants provide refugee trauma recovery services or work with a specific issue after the conference.

ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be expected to arrange and pay for their own travel, accommodation and conference registration. Authors who wish to apply for a scholarship (travel grant) to the conference will be provided with the link to the application portal upon acceptance of their abstract. The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is Friday, November 28th, 2025.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT ONLINE AT
<https://fasstt.eventsair.com/anztrrc4/>

For more information contact conference26@startts.org.au

