



eNews

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

4 April 2008

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Many people receive eNews by having it forwarded on to them by another. May be you are one of them. Having eNews sent directly to you instead means you find out about events and consumer participation opportunities sooner and there is no worry about your friend or colleague forgetting to send it. eNews is free and you can unsubscribe at any time so if you would like to receive it directly please send your email address to Diane Lowther at d.lowther@healthissuescentre.org.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

Health Issues Centre's Consultancy Service

As you probably know, Health Issues Centre undertakes a range of projects each year for a variety of health sector organisations. Some work focuses on increasing organisation's capacity to undertake effective participation, for example via:

- running learning and development programs for staff (we recently ran sessions for 200 managers at Southern Health, and are currently running sessions for the rehabilitation workforce all over Queensland); or
- planning projects (we worked with five very different health sector organisations in 2006-07 helping them plan their participation work to make it more effective).

Other work focuses on undertaking consultations with consumers, or developing resources for consumer members—we recently developed a whole suite of material for consumers on national committees of Cancer Australia. The Centre also undertakes a range of research work, for example, a recent study of public dental patients with Dental Health Services Victoria and Dianella Community Health Service, and a variety of literature reviews for the Sax Institute in NSW.

Health Issues Centre will soon have some spare capacity to undertake more projects. We would be happy to discuss with you opportunities to use our expertise for the benefit of your organisation and consumers. Please contact our CEO, Tony McBride, Ph: (03) 9479 5827 if you would like to discuss how Health Issues Centre can help your organisation.

Journal News

The next edition of *Health Issues* journal will be available in a couple of weeks. It focuses on women's health. We are current seeking authors for our Spring 2008 edition that focuses on primary health care—the key challenges and achievements in the 30 years since Alma Ata and the opportunities for the future. **The deadline for articles is 30 June 2008.**

More information can be found at: www.healthissuescentre.org.au/journal/index.asp or contact Diane Lowther, Email: d.lowther@healthissuescentre.org.au

OTHER NEWS

The Australian Health Care Agreements

There is much discussion about these five-yearly agreements between the federal government and the states for hospital funding, as they are currently being renegotiated. Here are a few references if you want to understand more about them.

The Australian Centre for Health Research has published a recent detailed analysis of the Australian Health Care Agreements (AHCAs) and makes a series of recommendations about their future, some proposing considerable reform. You can find it at: www.achr.com.au/pdfs/AU_ACHR_Report_Mar081.pdf

The Australian Health Care Reform Alliance (AHCRA) held a workshop recently in Canberra to discuss the AHCAs. Over 60 people attended from a wide range of AHCRA member organisations and others, including Geoff Gallop, one of the members of the new Health and Hospital Commission. The Communiqué and media release issued afterwards by the Alliance are available at:

www.healthreform.org.au/content/upload/files/Communique_25_March.doc

and

www.healthreform.org.au/content/upload/files/Media_Release_Post_workshop_final.pdf

These recommended that the Agreements cover more than hospitals in future to move towards a more integrated system, and that the next agreement be a short-term one (not five years) to enable major reforms to be introduced in two years or so. The Alliance also recommended that the Commonwealth return to funding 50% of the agreements (their share has dropped to nearer 40%) but that this increase be targeted at reform initiatives to improve system as a whole.

Australian Health Care Reform Alliance: Achievements To Date

Health Issues Centre has been a member for four years of this Alliance pushing for broad reform of the health 'system'. Tony McBride, our CEO, has been a member of its Executive for over two years. The Alliance can claim to have had some impact in putting broader reform on the agenda and in the establishment of a Health and Hospital Commission by the new federal government.

For a full outline of the work and successes of the forty-plus organisation Alliance of health services, professional organisations and consumer organisations go to:

www.healthreform.org.au/content/upload/files/Achievement_document_March_2008.pdf

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Expression of Interest in Membership of the Queensland Nursing Council

The Honorable Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Health, seeks expression of interest from registered nurses, lawyers and health care consumers in appointment to the Queensland Nursing Council. The Queensland Nursing Council is a statutory body and has as its primary purpose ensuring safe and competent nursing practice in Queensland.

Appointment will be on a part-time basis for a term of up to three years commencing 29 August 2008. An information paper may be obtained from the Queensland Nursing Council, (07) 3223 5160 or by emailing executive@qnc.qld.gov.au or visit www.qnc.qld.gov.au On receipt of the information paper, further details may be sought from the Executive Officer, Queensland Nursing Council, Ph: (07) 3223 5160.

*Expression of interest must address the selection criteria and forwarded to Council together with a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees. **Closing date for applications is 4.30 pm Tuesday, 2 May 2008.***

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED

Chronic Disease Self-management Special Interest Group

This ongoing Special Interest Group of the Chronic Illness Alliance is focusing its next meeting on the how peer-support helps people maintain their self-management program when health professionals cannot be there. Speakers include: Sandra Leone, Community Network Program Coordinator, Diabetes Australia (Vic), and members of the Bendigo Diabetes Support Group who are celebrating 40 years of operation.

When: 8 May 2008
Time: 2.00 pm–4.00 pm
Where: Meeting Room, Bendigo Community Health Service
3 Seymour Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria
RSVP: Christine Walker, Chronic Illness Alliance, Ph: (03) 9882 4654
Email: cwalker@chronicillness.org.au

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to the people who filled in the survey in the last edition of eNews. The responses were very valuable. However, there were not enough for the information to be seen as representative. If you didn't fill out the survey last time, and can spare five minutes, please click on the link and complete it. The information is useful for Health Issues Centre's planning of learning and development events. We are very keen to give you what you want at a time that suits you best and the survey will greatly assist us in doing this.

The survey link can be found at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vdig_2bwmHMMIhq52UNLhMwg_3d_3d

Reading Federal Budget Papers

This seminar, held by the Victorian Council of Social Service, aims to help community organisations and interested members of the public to get the inside story on how to read the story behind the pages of figures. Professor David Hayward, Dean, Faculty of Business and Enterprise, Swinburne University, will lead participates through topics such as: whether funding to your area has really increased; whether it is new money or being funded from cuts from other areas; and whether population is increasing faster that budget allocation.

When: 22 April 2008
Time: 2.00 pm–5.00 pm
Where: VCOSS, Level 8, 128 Exhibition Street, Melbourne
Cost: \$20.00 VCOSS members, \$60.00 non-members
Bookings: Registration form on www.vcooss.org.au
Email: vcooss@vcooss.org.au, Ph: (03) 9654 5050
By 17 April 2008

Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities on Issues Relating to Bloodborne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections

This workshop will provide an overview of the various perceptions, beliefs and barriers that exist in the Vietnamese, Arabic-speaking and East African communities in relation to sexual health issues, particularly HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible infections.

When: 16 April 2008
Time: 9.15 am–4.00 pm
Where: Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health
81–85 Barry Street, Carlton, Victoria
Cost: \$40.00
Bookings: Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health
Email: enquiries@ceh.org.au, Ph: (03) 9427 8766

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Quality Client Outcomes and Culturally Diversity Seminar and Expo

This event aims to enhance participant's knowledge of the ageing population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Speakers will provide examples of culturally responsive strategies that have been implemented in aged care services while community-based organisations will showcase resources and services to help aged care providers meet the needs of clients from specific ethnic communities.

When: 24 April 2008
Time: 8.30 am–3.15 pm
Where: Level 2 Cinema, Melbourne University Private
442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, Victoria
Bookings: Centre for Culturally Diversity in Ageing, Ph: (03) 8823 7900
Email: info@culturaldiversity.com.au
Website: www.culturaldiversity.com.au

People, Places, Processes

This Research—Policy—Practice Forum is being held by VicHealth and focuses on health inequalities. The forum will include research, policy and practice speakers discussing population-wide, targeted and place-based approaches to reducing health inequalities. It will also see the launch of a new web-based resource for the health promotion sector, and two new research summary publications on the burden of disease and on the key influences on health inequalities. There will also be some exciting news to share with you on the next stage of the Victorian Health Inequalities Network (VHIN).

When: 14 April 2008
Time: 9.00 am–12.30 pm
Where: VicHealth, Ground Floor, 15–31 Pelham Street, Carlton, Victoria
Bookings: Mark Boyd at VicHealth, Ph: (03) 9667 1353
Email: mboyd@vichealth.vic.gov.au
By 9 April 2008

Mental Health: Has SA Got It?

This forum held by the Health Consumers Alliance of SA, aims to gather information about what mental health means to consumers in SA, what works well and what needs changing. The information gathered will inform the Alliance's position paper on Mental Health in SA.

When: 16 April 2008
Time: 1.00 pm–3.00 pm
Where: Pilgrim Hall, Pilgrim Uniting Church Centre
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
RSVP: HCA, Ph: (08) 8223 1374, Email: info@hcasa.asn.au
By 10 April 2008

RESOURCES

Free Reviews of Funding Submissions for Community Organisations

It might sound too good to be true, but there really is a new organization called *Granted* that provides free, confidential advice to community sector organisation that are writing funding applications. *Granted* is a not-for-profit organisation that provides reviews of draft funding submissions and aims to assist community organisation that aim to make a positive social or environmental impact, but which have limited resources to seek funding.

Granted provides a fresh perspective, comments on the strengths and weaknesses of submissions and suggestions for improvements, but don't write submissions or draft content. *Granted's* reviews are free, independent and confidential.

If you think *Granted* can help your organisation, please visit www.granted.org.au for more information.

CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS

3rd Australian and New Zealand Falls Prevention Conference

This conference will be held in Melbourne on 12–14 October 2008. Its theme is, *Backing winners in falls prevention*, and showcases the latest research outcomes, programs implementation, training and policy and planning innovation in falls prevention. Conference topics include:

- understanding balance;
- risk assessment across the continuum;
- prevention initiatives—community;
- prevention initiatives—hospital;
- prevention initiatives—residential care;
- translating the research evidence into practice;
- high risk clinical groups;
- cognitive impairment, falls risk and management; and
- education.

Interested people are now invited to submit abstracts via ANZFP's website at: www.anzfpconference.com by 30 June 2008. If you experience trouble submitting your abstract online please contact, Conference Managers on (02) 6650 9800, Email: jayne@eastcoastconference.com.au

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