



eNews

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

Journal News

Renewals

Those of you who are members of Health Issues Centre or subscribe to *Health Issues* journal will have received renewal notices for the next subscription year. To all of you that have already renewed their membership or subscription, a big thank you, and a little reminder to the others who are still getting around to it.

Edition 94

This edition focuses on Women's Health. Unfortunately there has been a lengthy hold up with the printing but this edition will be available soon. So don't worry your copy hasn't gotten lost in the post. Sorry for any inconvenience this delay has caused.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Guideline Adaptation Committee for the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism

Most patients admitted to hospital have a risk of developing blood clots. Blood clots can form in the legs (deep vein thrombosis) or in the lungs (pulmonary embolism) and together are medically referred to as venous thromboembolism (VTE). The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is seeking **two consumers** to be part of a committee assisting in the development of a guideline for preventing blood clots in Australian hospital patients.

The first meeting will be held on 12 June 2008 and the committee is expected to run for 12 months. The process will include an opportunity for wide consultation with appropriate stakeholders in late 2008 and early 2009. The overall time commitment of members will be attendance at six, all day meetings (most probably in Melbourne) during the 12 month period to May 2009.

Consumers would need to have:

- Knowledge and understanding of hospital care to prevent blood clots;
- Understanding of the issues patients face when following clot prevention measures; and
- An interest or personal experience in blood clots and their prevention.

Committee members' travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the NHMRC. Depending upon the member's organisational affiliations, they may also be entitled to sitting fees.

For further information please contact Assunta Morrone, Ph: (03) 9479 3520,

Email: a.morrone@healthissuescentre.org.au

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send in a brief resume and paragraph (maximum 250 words) on why you would like to be nominated for this committee to Assunta Morrone at Health Issues Centre,

Email: a.morrone@healthissuescentre.org.au **before COB Friday, 22 May 2008.**

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED

Help Design Australia's Future Health System

On 25 February 2008, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health and Ageing announced the establishment of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC). The NHHRC is calling for submissions from the public, frontline health workers, professional and consumer groups, and other interested people and organisations to help design Australia's future health system.

The Commission has developed draft principles for the Australian health system and is also inviting comment on these. The draft principles are available on the Commission's website: www.nhhrc.org.au The NHHRC intends to submit an interim report in November 2008. The final report of the Commission will be completed in mid-2009.

*Submissions will be accepted **until the end of May 2008**. For further details including the terms of reference of the Commission, the principles and a guide to making submissions, please visit the website at www.nhhrc.org.au Submissions may also be made by mail to PO Box 685, Woden, ACT, 2606, or by calling 1800 017 533.*

Taxis and Hire Car Survey

The Public Transport Division of the Victorian Department of Infrastructure are keen to gain the views about the Taxis and Hire Cars section of their website through a short, online survey. They are particularly interested in hearing from people with a disability—including those who are members of the Multi Purpose Taxi Program—their carers, representatives and peak bodies, and anyone else who visits their site. The information gathered will help improve the site and make sure information people need is provided in the format they need it.

Survey can be found at: www.taxi.vic.gov.au

Improving Management of People with Chronic Non-Malignant Pain and Opioid Drug Dependence

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organisations in relation to the policy document, *Improving Management of People with Chronic Non-Malignant Pain and Opioid Drug Dependence*.

This is the fourth of a suite of four policies initiated by the Australian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM) and developed in collaboration with medical organisations in Australia and New Zealand. The policy document addresses three broad areas of chronic non-malignant pain and opioid drug dependence:

- Improving prescription of opioids for people with chronic non-malignant pain, with special emphasis on reducing opioid dependence for people who have no pre-existing illicit drug dependence;
- Managing pain in people with a pre-existing dependence; and
- Reducing diversion of prescription opioids.

The document is available as a summary or as a complete copy from www.racp.edu.au/index.cfm?objectid=7EF807C7-BD34-EA92-8829DB7A2F9A0A51 as are instruction on how to make a submission. Deadline for submissions is **Friday, 30 May 2008**

For further information contact Mary Osborn on (02) 9256 9606.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Victorian Governments Action Plan: Strengthening Community Organisations

The Victorian government has announced important strategies to strengthen the capacity of community organisations following extensive consultations. These include:

- The establishment of an office of the community sector;
- Framing and strengthening workforce capability;
- Funding for long service leave portability;
- An interest in funding leadership development of the sector;
- Implementing regulatory reform;
- Ways to increase the skills and engagement of volunteers; and
- Providing access to skilled advice on organisational issues.

VCOSS will be hosting a briefing and discussion on the Government Action Plan, identifying opportunities for community organisations and the sector as a whole.

When: 27 May 2008
Time: 9.00 am–12.00 pm
Where: The Victoria Room, Queen Victoria Women’s Centre
Level 4, 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Bookings: VCOSS, Ph: (03) 9654 5050
Email: vcoss@vcoss.org.au
By 19 May 2008

Risk Management and Insurance Basics for Not-For-Profits

This seminar is held by the Public Interest Law Clearing House and will discuss risks faced by not-for-profits organisations and suggest strategies for addressing risk, including occupation health and safety risk and the role of insurance in prudent risk management.

When: 5 June 2008
Time: 9.30 am–1.00 pm
Where: Allens Arthur Robinson, Level 34, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne
Cost: \$30.00
Bookings: Helen Arblaster, Ph: (03) 9225 6686
Email: connect@pilch.org.au
By 30 May 2008

Traditional Medicine and CAM

At this seminar there will be three speakers: Professor Seung-Hoon Choi, Is Evidence-based Traditional/Chinese Medicine Attainable?; Professor Charlie Xue, The Medicinal Herbs Commonly Used by Victorians; and Professor Paul Komesaroff, Social and Cultural Dimensions of the Use of CAM.

When: 26 May 2008
Time: 5.30 pm
Where: Storey Hall Auditorium, RMIT University
Level 5, 336–348 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Cost: Free
Contact: Sandy Ebell, Ph: (03) 9925 7746
Email: sandy.ebell@rmit.edu.au

National Health Workforce Forum 2008

This is the second National Health Workforce Forum and will build on the outcomes of the 2007 Forum by providing stakeholders with an outline of the National Health Workforce Work Program being progressed by the National Health Workforce Taskforce.

When: 4 June 2008
Time: 8.30 am-5.00 pm
Where: The Grace Hotel, 77 York Street, Sydney
Contact: National Health Workforce Taskforce, Ph: (03) 9092 2001
Email: taskforce@nhwt.gov Website: www.nhwt.gov.au

Finding Medical and Health Information

At this practical, free learning session you will discover how to access authoritative medical information in books and journals, websites and other electronic resources. You can learn about diseases and disorders, conventional and alternative treatments, medication and their side-effects, mental health and more.

When: 21 May 2008
Time: 10.30 am-12.00 pm
Where: State Library of Victorian, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Cost: Free
Bookings: Ph: (03) 8664 7555
Email: learning@slv.gov.au

RESOURCES

A Fairer Victoria: Achievements So Far

This report describes the success of the Victorian Government's policy so far. The complete document is available from:

[www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/web14/dvc/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/AFV+Achievements+So+Far+Word/\\$file/AFV+Achievements+so+far.doc](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/web14/dvc/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/AFV+Achievements+So+Far+Word/$file/AFV+Achievements+so+far.doc)

National Prevention Summit

Last week a National Prevention Summit was held in Melbourne. The event was hosted by VicHealth and the Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies. As part of the Summit a Platform for Prevention was developed and a useful Discussion Paper prepared.

The Platform for Action proposes a set of seven principles and six interlocking strategies:

1. Engaging all levels of society
2. Strengthening leadership and coordination
3. Creating sustainable financing
4. Building infrastructure and resources
5. Integrating evidence, policy and practice
6. Improving equity and fairness

A copy of the Platform for Prevention and the Discussion Paper can be downloaded from <http://healthpolicystudies.org.au/>

CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS

Palliative Care Victoria in collaboration with Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research will be holding 6th Biennial State Conference, Palliative Care: Beyond the Boundaries, on 23–24 October 2008 at the Jasper Hotel, Melbourne. This Conference will highlight how palliative care is expanding beyond its traditional boundaries, the challenges inherent in this and strategies to respond. Palliative Care Victoria is now calling for interested people to submit abstracts for this conference.

Go to www.pallcarevic.asn.au/uploadedFiles/1207892191609-8080.pdf for more information. **Deadline for abstracts is 12 June 2008.**