



**eNews**

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

6 June 2008

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE**

### **Journal News**

#### **Renewals**

If you are a member of Health Issues Centre or subscribe to *Health Issues* journal and haven't as yet renewed your membership/subscription, then you will have received a second renewal notice recently. Please send in your form and payment by 13 June 2008. A big thank you to everyone who has already renewed.

#### **Edition 94**

This edition focuses on Women's Health and is now available. More information can be found at our website: [www.healthissuescentre.org.au/journals/list-current.chtml](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/journals/list-current.chtml)

### **Events News**

#### **Committed to Participation**

On the 20 May 2008, Health Issues Centre held a one-day forum for health consumers who participate on Community Advisory Committees to share their experiences. The conference was held at Victoria University, Melbourne and was attended by over 100 participants.

A number of presentations from this event can now be downloaded from our website and more will be added as they become available. For more information go to: [www.healthissuescentre.org.au/participate/community.shtml](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/participate/community.shtml)

### **New Resources**

#### **Consumers On Line**

If you are a member of the Consumer Nominee Program (CNP) or a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) you can join Consumers on Line, a computer mediated group set up and moderated by Health Issues Centre. For more information go to: [www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/06/211134-upload-00001.pdf](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/06/211134-upload-00001.pdf)

#### **Paying and Reimbursing Consumers, Carers and Community Members to Participate**

Health Issues Centre has developed a position statement on the payment and reimbursement of consumers, carers and community members. The position statement states:

"Health Issues Centre recommends that organisations which invite consumers, carers and community members to have input into the planning of services and programs should offer consumers a suitable payment for their contribution and reimburse all of their out-of-pocket expenses associated with their participation".

This position statement has been written for health services and health policy organisations that are planning to involve consumers, carers and community members in a range of participation approaches. It does not cover community development initiatives where community members are directly involved in improving their own health outcomes.

The position statement has been developed in response to requests for advice on payment schedules and processes and Health Issues Centre welcomes feedback on this position statement from the sector.

*The position statement is available at:*

[www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/06/211201-upload-00001.pdf](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/06/211201-upload-00001.pdf)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **VASM—What is it?**

Following several years of planning, the Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality (VASM) has now commenced in Victoria. VASM is funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) and is part of a national audit (Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality [ANZASM]). Such an audit has been running successfully in Western Australia since 2001. As part of the audit, participating hospitals will notify VASM of all deaths that occurred in patients who underwent a surgical procedure and/or were admitted under the care of a surgeon. The audit process is designed to highlight system and process errors. It is intended as an educational rather than a punitive exercise with the data collected by the audit providing valuable information for improving surgical outcomes.

*For more information go to:*

[www.hic.infoxchange.net.au/documents/items/2008/06/211205-upload-00001.pdf](http://www.hic.infoxchange.net.au/documents/items/2008/06/211205-upload-00001.pdf)

## **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

### **Culturally Inclusive Health Assessments**

This workshop is designed to enable participants to develop the appropriate skills and knowledge to conduct culturally appropriate and inclusive assessment when working with clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The workshop will be followed by a Showcase featuring three examples of good practice.

**When:** 18 June 2008  
**Time:** Workshop: 9.15 am-1.30 pm  
Show case: 2.00 pm-4.00pm  
**Where:** Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health  
81-85 Barry Street, Carlton, Melbourne  
**Cost:** Workshop: \$120.00, Showcase: \$20.00  
**Contact:** CEH, Ph: (03) 9342 9700  
Email: [enquires@ceh.org.au](mailto:enquires@ceh.org.au)

## **CONSUMER COMMENT**

### **The Hidden Cost of Participation**

Participating on committees and contributing to quality improvement in the health system is a rewarding experience and one which many people like myself do as a volunteer. But there is a hidden cost which some health professionals often forget.

These days all the documents are sent as attachments to emails, most as PDF. These are often between 1-2 Mb in size and can use up a lot of download time or gig allocation. I recently received the documentation for a teleconference and a face-to-face meeting. The first has 13 documents attached—total 1.3 Mb. While I can read them on screen, I have to be doing the teleconference away from my desk so have to print them off to have them with me. The face-to-face meeting has only seven documents but one is 61 pages long. It gets worse. I was a consumer on an assessment panel recently and the documents we were to access totaled 18 Mb!!

I have already exceeded my 200 Mb limit with still 10 days in the billing month to go! I am the one who bears the cost of paper and ink.

Ian Roos

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Legal Issues in Managing Volunteers

This seminar is being run by the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) and will cover legal issues that arise during the 'life-cycle' of a volunteer including:

- Advertising for and recruitment of volunteers;
- Screening and assessment;
- Issues that may arise during their ongoing activities; and
- Disciplinary, dismissal or resignation procedures.

**When:** 1 July 2008  
**Time:** 9.30 am–1.00 pm  
**Where:** Clayton Utz, Level 18, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne  
**Cost:** \$30.00  
**Bookings:** PILCH, Ph: (03) 9225 6680  
Email: [connect@pilch.org.au](mailto:connect@pilch.org.au)

### Health for all: The People's Health Movement

This joint workshop of the People's Health Movement (Australia) and the Political Economy of Health and Primary Health Care SIGs of PHAA will focus on the intersection between health and social justice. In keeping with PHM tradition, the workshop will provide opportunities to link stories of struggle with social and economic determinants of people's health with actions by citizens and activists to improve health. Our aim is to strengthen interest and support for PHM Oz.

**When:** 6 July 2008  
**Time:** 9.30 am–4.00 pm  
**Where:** The Ship Inn at South Bank, Cnr Stanley and Sidon Streets  
Southbank Parklands, Brisbane  
**Cost:** \$60.00 (\$30.00 for students)  
**Workshop flyer:** [www.phaa.net.au/documents/PHMOzflyer\\_08.pdf](http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/PHMOzflyer_08.pdf)  
**Registration form:** [www.phaa.net.au/documents/PHMOzregistration\\_08.pdf](http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/PHMOzregistration_08.pdf)

### Everybody's Business: Continence Care Across Major Chronic Conditions

The Continence Foundation of Australia is holding this one-day education for health care professionals.

**When:** 4 July 2008  
**Time:** 9.00 am–4.30 pm  
**Where:** Wrest Point, 410 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay, Tasmania.  
**Contact:** Mary Trezise, Ph: (03) 9347 2522  
Email: [mary@continence.org.au](mailto:mary@continence.org.au)  
Website: [www.continence.org.au](http://www.continence.org.au)

### Building a Better Health System: Getting Involved

This events aims to inform people of the role of the Health Consumers Alliance of SA in providing a consumer voice into policy and health care decision making. There will be a brief introduction to the Alliance and a discussion on what it is to be a consumer representative.

**When:** 11 June 2008  
**Time:** 5.30 pm–7.30 pm  
**Where:** Salvation Army Hall, 18 Jervois Street, Port Augusta, SA  
**Bookings:** Health Consumers Alliance of SA, Ph: (08) 8223 1374  
Email: [info@hcasa.asn.au](mailto:info@hcasa.asn.au)

### **Consequences of Loss: Resiliency and Complications in the Grief Experience**

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society will provide a unique opportunity for local and international delegates to hear from leading researchers and practitioners in a program of interactive workshops, world-class keynote lectures, exciting symposia, plenaries, cutting-edge research papers, rapid communication posters and workshops.

**When:** 15-18 July 2008  
**Where:** Hilton on the Park, Melbourne  
**Contact:** Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement  
Ph: (03) 9265 2100, Email: [conference@grief.org.au](mailto:conference@grief.org.au)  
Website: [www.icgb08.com/](http://www.icgb08.com/)

### **Psychosocial Perspectives of HIV/AIDS**

This symposium will focus on a range of psychosocial health perspectives of HIV/AIDS including mental health, health promotion, and diverse communities with the overall theme of working with individuals living longer with HIV.

**When:** 18 June 2008  
**Time:** 9.30 am–4.30 pm  
**Where:** AMREP Building, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne  
**Cost:** Free  
**Bookings:** Email: [erced@alfred.org.au](mailto:erced@alfred.org.au)  
Website: [www.hivhepsti.info](http://www.hivhepsti.info)

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