



**eNews**

*Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre*

14 August 2009

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

### Current Projects

#### **The Priorities of Rural Consumers who Travel for Healthcare**

In 2008, the Health Issues Centre prepared a Discussion Paper on 'The needs of rural consumers who travel to Melbourne Hospitals'. Following the release of the discussion paper, HIC coordinated two regional roundtables in Gippsland and Loddon Mallee, in April 2009. Arising from the roundtables, seven key areas of policy and practice change were consistently identified for a 'whole-of-journey' approach to rural consumers who travel for healthcare. Further affirming and strengthening the voices of consumers, these seven priorities have been written in a report summary of seven key priorities towards 'whole-of-journey' supportive and coordinated care.

HIC encourages all rural, regional and city health services to access this report – it is clear from the thoughtful reflections and discussions between government, health and transport workers with consumers together, that solutions to overcome the challenges of travel for rural consumers are not only necessary but possible. To view the report, please follow the link below:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2009/07/287477-upload-00001.pdf>

#### **Workshops for Health Professionals**

Involving Consumers on Committees: 27 October 2009

[Workshop Flyer and information](#)

[Workshop Registration](#)

To find out what other projects we are working on, please follow the link:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/projects/current.shtml>

## JOURNAL NEWS

#### **Upcoming Edition 99 of Health Issues: Human Rights, Health and Healthcare**

Deadline for submissions: **7 September 2009**

We are now accepting submissions for the next edition of the Health Issues Journal: Human rights, health and healthcare. We welcome you to write your reflections, experiences and stories about the interconnections between human rights, health and healthcare, both from the perspectives of health services and consumers.

[Call for submission for Health Issues Centre Journal on Human rights, health and healthcare](#)

#### **Health Issues Journal current edition: Autumn 2009, Edition 98 (02/06/2009)**

This Edition focuses on Quality and Safety 98: Autumn 2009

[Contents Page Health Issues Journal # 98](#)

## **Articles (Edition 98)**

[The Consumer voice and experience must underpin and shape safety and quality in health care](#)

[West Australia Health Consumer's Council: Patient First Ambassador Project](#)

[Producing a Quality of Care Report with consumers: the positives, challenges and lessons learnt](#)

### **News! Health Issues Journal to be Published on *informit***

HIC is entering into partnership with *informit e-library* of RMIT University to have the Health Issues Journal made available for academic and scholarly research. Through *informit* the Journal will be electronically available to all Australian university, state and national libraries, plus a large number of libraries of hospitals, government departments, corporations and private research institutions. This will give the Journal a greater reach to academics and students and help raise the profile of consumer perspectives in health studies, research and policy making. It will also give the Journal international exposure as *informit* is globally well regarded. Back copies of the Journal will in time also become available through *informit*.

Members of HIC and subscribers to the Journal will continue to receive printed copies and the arrangement with *informit* is not expected to affect subscriptions/memberships. In fact, royalties paid to HIC by *informit* will assist us to fund the Journal's production costs which currently are double the income received for the Journal.

The Journal is a unique and valuable contributor to the health consumer movement and HIC welcomes this partnership with *informit* to enhance the Journal's impact. An announcement of the expected date of publication of the Health Issues Journal on *informit* will be made through the Health Issues Centre e-News as soon as arrangements are finalised.

## **CONSUMER PARTICIPATION**

### **Consumers Required for Focus Groups on Consumer Perspectives on Potential Workforce Changes**

Health Issues Centre has been funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services to undertake a 'Study on consumer perspectives on potential workforce changes'. The project aims to explore the experiences, preferences and acceptability of potential workforce changes in a number of health sectors among a diverse range of consumers, and to use this to broker new consensus on core principles for future change.

Focus group interviews will be conducted in the August and September 2009 and consumers will receive a one-off payment of \$30 for their contribution.

If you are interested in attending a focus group interview, please download the EOI form from:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2009/07/288347-upload-00001.dot>

or send your details to Souzi Markos [s.markos@healthissuescentre.org.au](mailto:s.markos@healthissuescentre.org.au)

### **Opportunities to Participate in Cancer Service Improvement Activities in the North East Region of Melbourne (NEMICS)**

We are looking for people who have had an experience of cancer or have experienced cancer via a friend or family member. For further information, please follow this link: [NEMICS Information](#)

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can become involved in improving cancer services in this region, please contact Melissa Shand on 9496 3831 or by [email](#). You can also go to [NEMICS website](#) for further information.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

### **Chronic Illness and Depression - a Concern in Older People**

*beyondblue* and the Councils on the Ageing (COTA) in each State and Territory have teamed up to deliver free peer education sessions for older people with a chronic illness, their carers and friends. These are now available at no charge to older people's groups around Australia via their State/Territory COTA group. For more information visit, [www.cota.gov.au](http://www.cota.gov.au) or call the COTA in your State or Territory.

For more information on depression and anxiety phone the *beyondblue* info line on **1300 22 46 36** (local landline call cost) or visit the website [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

### **Consumer Responsive Healthcare - What Does it Mean?**

Web link for more information:

[http://hsraanz.widemediamedia.com.au/files/Final%20program\\_Consumer%20Responsive%20Seminar.pdf](http://hsraanz.widemediamedia.com.au/files/Final%20program_Consumer%20Responsive%20Seminar.pdf)

**Date:** Friday, 4 September

**Time:** 10 am – 3pm

**Venue:** The University of Melbourne, School of Population Health  
5/207 Bouverie Street, Carlton – Room 515

**Places are limited!** RSVP: [gisselle.gallego@chere.uts.edu.au](mailto:gisselle.gallego@chere.uts.edu.au) by Wednesday, 26 August

## CONFERENCES

### **Registration Now Open! International Federation on Ageing (IFA) 10th Global Conference, Climate for Change: Ageing into the Future Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia, 3 - 6 May 2010**

The International Federation on Ageing 10th Global Conference, hosted by Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, will provide a reliable platform for a global information exchange and point of connection for all, working to generate positive social change for older people. The five themes forming the program framework, **Climate Change; Social Inclusion; Human Rights; Resourcing Change and Healthy Ageing** are expected to stimulate new conversations as well as explore more traditional subject areas in depth. The IFA 2010 Organising Committee is pleased to announce that registration for IFA 2010 is now open! [Register Here](#) to secure your attendance at this international event and take advantage of the early bird registration fee.

### **Participate in Health Conference: My Story Matters**

Melbourne, 21-22 September 2009

Go to [www.healthissuescentre.org.au](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au) for registration information

### **National Stroke Week**

National Stroke Week 14-20 September 2009

<http://www.strokefoundation.com.au/>

### **Integrated Primary Health Care Conference**

Melbourne, 30 September-1 October 2009

<http://www.integratedprimaryhealth.com/>

### **APHA 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Congress**

Melbourne, 11-13 October 2009

<http://www.apha.consec.com.au/>

## **Australian General Practice Network National Forum**

Sydney, 4–7 November 2009

<http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/>

## **Future of Medicare Forum**

Sydney, 5–6 November 2009

<http://www.informa.com.au/>

## **POLICY NEWS**

### **Release of National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Final Report**

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has released the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission 300-page final report in Canberra. The Federal Government expects to respond to the 123 recommendations it contains within 6 months. The Executive Summary, Recommendations, and the full report are available at: [www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/nhhrc-report](http://www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/nhhrc-report)

### **Victorian Health Services Policy and Funding Guidelines 2009-10**

This year the policy and funding information for health services comprises a highlight document plus specific health sector information.

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/>

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Real lives, Real jobs – New Report (May 2009)**

A new report by Wanda Bennetts, has been released: 'Developing good practice guidelines for a sustainable consumer workforce in the mental health sector, through participatory research'. This report summarises the finding of research conducted on consumers working in mental health or related organisations. The report includes a series of recommendations to strengthen the mental health consumer workforce.

</documents/items/2009/08/289454-upload-00001.pdf> (613.08Kb)

## **DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED**

### **Do You Want to be Involved on a Committee?**

To find out more how or for more information, go to:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/participate/>

### **Consumer Position No CNP090043**

Department of Human Services (The Department) Hospitals Admissions Risk Program (HARP) diabetes service development Advisory Committee

### **Consumer Position No CNP090042**

DHS Victorian Immunisation Advisory Committee

## **NEW ON OUR WEBSITE**

### **Media Release**

[HIC's response to The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission \(NHHRC\)report](#)

### **Swine Flu Immunisation Campaign**

Health Issues Centre Senior Project Officer Tere Dawson was asked by The Australian to comment on the swine flu immunisation campaign. Read the full article [Doctors pin hopes on flu shot funding](#)

### **Hot Topic! Out of Pocket: Rethinking Health Copayments**

(Author, Jennifer Doggett)

The National Health & Hospital Reform Commission has delivered its plan for what's been described as the 'biggest health shake-up in decades'. But there's one issue that's barely on the radar - the growing proportion of health funding that is coming out of patients' own pockets. More than one dollar in six spent on health care is paid directly by consumers - more than double the amount covered by private health insurance. Read a summary on the [Centre for Policy Development website](#) or [Download the full report](#)

### **New Resources added to website for August 2009**

With funding from the Victorian Department of Human Services, Health Issues Centre maintains and provides a webpage which contains information about consumer participation in health. Documents focus on resources - key relevant policy documents, examples of participation in practice, and research on consumer participation. [New resources added for August 2009: Decision Making](#)

### **Multilingual Audio Version of Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights**

An audio version (in English and 17 other languages) of the Australian Charter is now available for people who are vision impaired:

[Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights \(MP3 1017 KB\)](#)

[A guide for patients, consumers, carers and families \(MP3 1968 KB\)](#)

## **NEW RESOURCES**

### **Fantastic New Website- Inside Radiology**

Through the Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging project work, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists has prepared a very consumer-friendly information website on radiology procedures. The website can be viewed at: <http://www.insideradiology.com.au>

To subscribe or unsubscribe to eNews, contact Souzi Markos:

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