

Mission:

Health Issues Centre Inc. aims to improve the health outcomes for Australians, especially the disadvantaged. Its principal activity is to promote the prevention and management of disease by developing and disseminating information on more effective consumer-centred health care.

Our role is:

To work with consumers and health care providers in Victoria and health policy-makers at all levels to ensure that consumers' perspectives are included and valued. This is achieved by undertaking research, policy analysis, information provision, and training and support for both consumers and health care providers.

For further information, please contact:

Health Issues Centre
Level 5, Health Sciences 2
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY VIC 3086

Phone: (03) 9479 5827

Fax: (03) 9479 5977

Email:

info@healthissuescentre.org.au

Website:

www.healthissuescentre.org.au

HEALTH ISSUES - CALL FOR PAPERS

This issue of Health Issues Centre's Journal is on a **whole-of-journey approach to providing coordinated and supportive care to rural consumers and carers who travel for healthcare**

The deadline for articles is 16 February 2010

Eight key priorities have been identified towards strengthening the experience of rural consumers who travel for healthcare within a 'whole-of-journey' approach. We welcome your articles, reflections, stories, and examples of initiatives which address any of these priorities (identified below) and of the experiences of rural consumers and carers who travel for healthcare.

1. **Identifying** rural consumers across and between all health services.
2. Rural GP practices, in particular **practice managers/nurses as the key point** of information and coordination for rural consumers.
3. "Someone who actually knows the system" in the hospitals. There is a need for key **staff in rural, district, regional and city hospitals who provide coordinated support** for rural consumers and carers and who also advocate for the needs of rural consumers within their services.
4. Development and availability of **whole-of-transport and accommodation information** relevant to location of hospitals.
5. **Reformulation of discharge planning to 'transfer of care'**
6. **Better transport and accommodation** support and options.
7. Initiatives which **limit the need for travel** by rural health consumers.
8. State government leadership, coordination and support to 'whole-of-journey' approach.

The Health Issues Centre Journal welcomes articles from Australian and international contributors that critique health issues from the consumers' and carers' perspectives and report on and provide analysis of current state, national and international developments. Past editions of the journal can be accessed at

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/publications/journal.shtml>

The Journal has an Editorial Committee that assesses all contributions. The Guidelines for Authors are available at

http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/detail.chtml?filename_num=204565

We hope that you will consider contributing to this edition. If you would like to discuss your ideas or wish to express interest in making a written contribution please contact Jackie Mansourian on (03) 9479 5870 or email me at j.mansourian@healthissuescentre.org.au