



eNews

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

Level 5, Health Sciences 2
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY VIC 3086

Ph: (03) 9479 5827

Fax: (03) 9479 5977

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info@healthissuescentre.org.au

www.healthissuescentre.org.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

Consumer participation in research

Health Issues Centre finished a one year project funded by the Victorian Cancer Agency. This project aimed at developing and delivering a training program for consumers and carers on consumer participation in research. The Program was well attended and post session's evaluations and evaluations after a month and three months were very positive. Most participants said that what they learned during the program was useful and has supported them in their advocacy work. The Project also delivered one consumer participation resource for consumers and a consumer participation resource for researchers. Health Issues Centre has recommended to the Victorian Cancer Agency that training for consumers in research is offered on ongoing basis and that training for researchers is developed and offered to cancer researchers in Victoria.

Including your initiative in a resource kit on the priorities of rural consumers who travel for healthcare ...

It's not too late! You can still include the services and initiatives you/your health service/organisation have developed (or are developing) into a resource kit being coordinated by the Health Issues Centre.

The key priorities which have been identified are:

1. Identifying rural consumers across and between all health services.
2. Rural GP practice, in particular practice manager/nurse 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 and identified 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.

Contact Jackie Mansourian j.mansourian@healthissuescentre.org.au or Tel 9479 5870 before 17 March!

NEW PROJECTS

National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) - *BreastScreen* Cohort Demonstration Study

Health Issues Centre in collaboration with the Consumer Advisory Committee of *BreastScreen* Victoria and the NBCF is conducting a series of workshops with women to assess the documents that women will need to read and questionnaire they will need to fill in when become participants of this study. Consulting with women about the acceptability of the study and asking women about the legibility and user-friendliness of project documents and data collection tools is not common practice in research, thus, this is a valuable and innovative initiative. Hopefully, it is acknowledged and replicated by other researchers in Australia in the future.

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)

Health Issues Centre has entered in a partnership with Cancer Voices Victoria and the PCFA to deliver training sessions on advocacy and consumer participation to members of PCFA. The first sessions were delivered in Sydney in February 2010 to members of the National Support and Advocacy Committee and the second session in Melbourne in March 2010 to other PCFA members.

Northern Primary Mental Health Team/Youth Early Psychosis Program

Health Issues Centre has started a new and exciting project to support the participation of young people in mental health services in the northern region of Melbourne. The Northern Primary Mental Health Team/Youth Early Psychosis Program is funding the development a youth advisory model for mental health services in the cities of Darebin and Whittlesea. Health Issues Centre will work in collaboration with young people already involved in several of the mental health services, service providers and experts in the field of mental health to develop the model. This project will be finished in June 2010.

JOURNAL NEWS

Look out for the Autumn edition of the Health Issues Centre Journal...coming out in April with the focus on **'Whole-of-journey approach to providing coordinated and supportive care to rural consumers and carers who travel for healthcare'**.

Excellent contributions have been received including, investing in essential health care locally and strengthening links to specialist services, National Rural Health Alliance, Improving the Patient Journey for Country South Australians, Karen Dixon, Combining Care Coordination and Supportive Care in Regional Victoria, Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Serviceand more.....including some powerful stories and ideas for change by rural consumers

CONSUMER PARTICIPATION

Critical perspectives on "consumer involvement" in health research

Researchers in the area of health and social care (both in Australia and internationally) are encouraged to involve consumers throughout the research process, often on ethical, political and methodological grounds, or simply as 'good practice'. This article presents findings from a qualitative study in the UK of researchers' experiences and views of consumer involvement in health research. Two main themes are presented. First, we explore the 'know-do gap' which relates to the tensions between researchers' perceptions of the potential benefits of, and their actual practices in relation to, consumer involvement.

<http://jos.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/46/1/63>

CONSUMER POSITIONS

Consumer Position 100051

National Breast Cancer Foundation BreastScreen Victoria Demonstration Project Management Committee (DPMCO)
Closing Date: 29 March 2010

This committee will provide advice, guidance and expertise to the Chief Investigator in all aspects of the establishment and operation of the NBCF BreastScreen Cohort Demonstration Project.

The Cohort Project aims to establish a long term resource to support research into breast cancer and other health issues important to women.

[Consumer Position 100051 Information](#)

[Consumer Position 100051 Application Form](#)

[Consumer Position 100051 TOR](#)

Consumer Position CNP100050

Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program Steering Committee
Department of Health
Closing Date: 11 March 2010

The role of the committee is to guide the development and implementation of the Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program (VCSP). The aim of the VCSP is to improve the management and care for people with cancer following primary treatment. The Victorian government has a commitment to trial cancer survivorship models of care and support training of the cancer workforce in screening processes and survivorship awareness.

[Consumer Position No 100050 Information](#)

[Consumer Position No 100050 Application Form](#)

[Consumer Position No 100050 TOR](#)

Consumer Position CNP 090048

Volatile Substance Use (VSU) Guideline Development Committee
National Health and Medical Research Council
Closing date: 4 March 2009

The role of the committee will be to assist in the development of guidelines for health and medical staff to treat people who are suffering the affects of using volatile substances. Volatile substances are products that when inhaled can cause a person to feel intoxicated or 'high'. There are many different types of products people can inhale, usually household items, such as petrol, glue and paint thinner.

[Consumer Position No 48 Information](#)

[Consumer Position No 48 TOR](#)

[Consumer Position No 48 Application Form](#)

Consumer Position CNP090045

Royal District Nursing Service Consumer Participation Committee
Closing date: 22 March 2010

The Role of the RDNS Consumer Participation Committee is to advise on the implementation of consumer participation activities that actively contribute to the improvement of RDNS' service delivery

[Consumer Position CNP090045 Information](#)

[Consumer Position CNP090045 Application Form](#)

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Education and Training - Taking Control & Planning Ahead

An information session led by the Office of the Public Advocate which will explain the various powers of attorney available in Victoria as well as guardianship. FREE and OPEN TO ALL.

The Nerve Centre, 54 Railway Road, Blackburn
(Parking via Solwood Lane, walking distance from Blackburn Rail Station)
Friday 19 March, 10am - 12 noon
Monday 24 May, 10am - 12 noon

Programs will only proceed if we have sufficient registrations, therefore registration is essential.

Programs are available as a video link to the MS Centre in Footscray if this venue is easier to attend. This program is open to anyone in the community, health or disability sector for person or professional learning.

There is NO CHARGE for this program

Contact Name: Andrea Salmon
Contact Phone: 9845 2765
Contact Email: educationvic@msaustralia.org.au

How can I advocate for people affected by cancer?

Participate in the Cancer Voices Victoria Advocacy Training Workshop and learn different strategies to ensure that your voice is heard.

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 March 2010
Cancer Council Victoria
100 Drummond Street
Carlton South
9.30am – 4.30pm
Meals provided

Attendance is free however registration is essential.

Registration at: www.cancervoicesvic.org.au
For further information email: enquiries@cancervoicesvic.org.au
Or telephone: Gael Castillo: (03) 9635 5069

CONFERENCES

QIP and AGPAL 5th International Conference in Health Care, Quality Around the World

Location: Melbourne
Dates: 20/05/2010 – 22/05/2010
Link: <http://www.qip.com.au/conference>

Australian Health & Hospital Summit

Location: Brisbane
Dates: 21/05/2010 – 21/05/2010
Details: CHF Executive Director, Carol Bennett, will participate in a panel session looking at improving health services

2010 National Medicines Symposium, Medicines in People's Lives

Location: Melbourne
Dates: 26/05/2010 – 28/05/2010
Link: <http://www.nms2010.org.au>

The 3rd Biennial Conference, Breathing New Life into Maternity Care

Location: Alice Springs
Dates: 01/07/2010 – 04/07/2010
Link: <http://www.breathingnewlife.remark.com.au>

27th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP 2010)

Location: Melbourne
Dates: 11/07/2010 – 16/07/2010
Link: <http://www.icap2010.com/>

8th Australian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Location: Perth
Dates: 06/09/2010 – 08/09/2010
Link: <http://www.aqhc2010.org.au/>

TheMHS (The Mental Health Services) 20th Annual Conference

Location: Sydney
Dates: 14/09/2010 – 17/09/2010
Details: 20 years strong and now a renaissance
Link: <http://www.themhs.org/2010-annual-conference>

National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Location: Canberra

Dates: 25/10/2010 – 26/10/2010

Link: <http://sapmea.asn.au/conventions/forumsqhc2010/index.html>

POLICY NEWS

The Report of the Review of Health Technology Assessment in Australia ('HTA Review') has today been released by Ministers Roxon and Tanner. The joint media release is at <http://www.health.gov.au>.

The Report can be accessed on the HTA Review website by clicking on the following www.health.gov.au/htareview.

Hard copies of the Report are available in early March 2010 upon request by return email to htareview@health.gov.au

OTHER NEWS

Heatwave resources

As part of Victoria's heatwave strategy, a number of communication resources have been developed for use and distribution to people who are at risk of heat-related illness.

Read more...

http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/rrhacs/ph_bulletin/heatwave_resources/_nocache?src=email&id=080210

Australian first – Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal and Register now a reality

The National Health and Medical Research Council has launched a new national Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal that will provide links to current Australian guidelines developed by governments, professional colleges, specialty societies and non-government agencies. Clinical practice guidelines are critical tools used by health professionals and researchers to improve the health of Australians, yet in the past have often been hard to locate, difficult to access and sometimes out of date.

The new portal is a 'one stop shop' for clinicians, researchers, policy makers and consumers to access guidelines developed during the preceding five years for use in the Australian health care system.

In addition to the Portal, the NHMRC has developed a national clinical practice Guidelines in Development Register. This Register contains information about clinical practice guidelines that are planned or currently being developed in Australia.

The Portal and Register can be accessed at www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines for the development of clinical practice guidelines

The **National Health and Medical Research Council** formally invites your comment, and that of relevant staff in your organisation, as part of the targeted consultation for the draft NHMRC Procedures for third party development of clinical practice guidelines and NHMRC. Requirements for approval of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines detailed in link below.

We would appreciate if you could use the attached form to submit your comments by Friday, 16 April 2010 to: clinicalguidelines@nhmrc.gov.au
http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/detail.chtml?filename_num=311020

Developing stroke support for Victorian Indigenous communities

The Stroke Association of Victoria (S.A.V.) Inc. looking into the information and support available to, and about, Indigenous peoples affected by stroke and develop hoping to develop stroke support for Indigenous communities throughout Victoria.

It would be wonderful to meet with anyone that would be able to help in identifying the many different needs in our Indigenous communities, and how to best go about providing post-stroke support to those who need it.

If you have any suggestions, enquiries, or would like to be involved in bringing these issues to the foreground of discussions around Indigenous health, please contact me:

Emily Mercer, Development Manager, Stroke Association of Victoria, (03) 9077 1246
emily.strokeassociation@gmail.com or emily@strokeassociation.com.au

The Stroke Association of Victoria (S.A.V.) Inc is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support, information and advice to Victorian stroke survivors, their families and carers.

NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Patient Safety: Conversation to Curriculum

In a commentary published in the New York Times, Daniel Blumenthal and Ishani Ganguli, fourth-year students at Harvard Medical School and active participants in the IHI Open School for Health Professions, speak out about including patient safety and improvement skills in medical school curricula. They call for a cultural shift, one that dissolves the secrecy surrounding medical errors and allows trainees and seasoned doctors to speak openly about mistakes.

[New York Times](#)

NEW RESOURCES

FAQ for consumers attending Department of Health committees

Health Issues Centre and the Department of Health in response to requests from consumers, carers and community members has developed a frequently asked questions sheet for consumers, carers and community members attending Department of Health committee meetings or consultations at 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne



[/documents/items/2010/02/308832-upload-00001.pdf](#) (96.44Kb)

[Well proud: A guide to gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender and intersex inclusive practice for health and human services](#)

This new resource developed by the Victorian Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex health and wellbeing is intended to assist the Departments of Health and Human Services and funded agencies improve their service provision to members of GLBTI communities. Well Proud draws on national and international research on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI people and on guidelines for GLBTI-sensitive practice and service delivery that have been developed here and overseas. The guide provides evidence-based recommendations aimed at supporting services to be more responsive to issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex conditions. It includes additional recommendations for specific health care settings, and for subgroups within the GLBTI population that have specific health and wellbeing needs. Electronic copies are available [here](#), or contact Meg Gulbin (meg.gulbin@health.vic.gov.au) for hard copies.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to *eNews*, contact Souzi Markos:
s.markos@healthissuescentre.org.au