

GP NSW Aboriginal Health Update – 2 February 2011

Cultural Competency Training – places still available

There are places still available for the online Cultural Competency Training for Division staff. If there are any staff (or Board members) from your Division who are interested in completing the course, please send through their names, email addresses and Date of Birth though to alexswain@gpnsw.com.au.

The training is online and run through the Centre for Cultural Competency Australia. It takes about 10 hours to complete and is TAFE accredited.

The rapidly increasing cultural diversity of the NSW Network workforce means that the ability to work across cultures is fast becoming a necessity for Division staff. Cultural competence training has been found to be effective in improving workplace performance and in contributing positively to Aboriginal program objectives. The course is fully paid for by GP NSW.

Training funding opportunity for Aboriginal staff – funding still available

Are you thinking of doing a course or expanding your skill-set? Funding of up to \$2000 (plus associated travel costs) is still available through GP NSW to support Aboriginal staff currently working within NSW Divisions for training and professional development. For more information or to obtain an application form, email alexswain@gpnsw.com.au.

Community promotion of self-identification and CtG on TV

Barwon, New England and North West Slopes Divisions have pooled some funding and have commissioned an advertisement through NBN TV, part of the Nine Network, in their region, featuring Preston Campbell. The message is around self-identification. The ad is expected to be ready to be reviewed on 8 February.

These Divisions are happy for the ad to be shared, but it can only be aired on the Nine Network. Each area will need to negotiate with NBN for the ad to be shown. Air time is much cheaper in rural locations than in Sydney.

Divisions can arrange for logos to be changed for local use through a fairly easy process and minimal cost. Details of how Divisions can access the ad, and suggestions of which Division could work together due to NBN Coverage areas, will be sent via the list serve after the 8th February.

Community promotion of CtG on Koori Radio

Koori Radio has coverage of the Sydney metropolitan area as far as Central Coast, Blue Mountains and Illawarra. GP NSW is proposing that the Divisions within Koori Radio coverage could discuss working together to contribute ideas, funding and talent to buy promotion spots for Closing the Gap messages. GP NSW is happy to assist the relevant Divisions to coordinate their discussions and will send out information towards the middle of February to start the ball rolling. (thanks Central Sydney for bringing this opportunity to our notice)

Community Promotion of CtG in Print

GP NSW has approached the major Aboriginal publications and is working hard to get good news Closing the Gap – Better Access to Primary Health Care stories published. We are thinking a series of stories will have more punch than infrequent ads.

The Indigenous Times is (hopefully) running a feature on Closing the Gap in their February 17 issue. Due to short lead times and many people still being on leave, 2 Divisions, WentWest and Shoalhaven, were asked to provide good news stories for GP NSW to submit for this feature.

GP NSW would like to keep a file of Division good news stories and accompanying photos so when similar opportunities arise we can respond quickly. Please send Alex copies of any news clippings or press releases where your work is featured in your local media at alexswain@gpnsw.com.au.

Closing the Gap Workshop

GP NSW will be holding two state-wide Closing the Gap workshops in 2011. The first has been tentatively set in the week commencing 21 or 28 March 2011.

A call for expressions of interest for Division staff to take part in a Workshop Working Party was emailed to the GP NSW closing the gap list serve on 27/1/11. EoIs close at 5pm Friday 4 February. If you are interested please email wendycampbell@gpnsw.com.au for more information.

Division staff working in Aboriginal health are also invited to take part in a survey (accessed through <http://survey.gpnsw.com.au:8080/survey/entry.jsp?id=1295486714722>) to help GP NSW and the Workshop Working Party put together a meaningful program for the workshop. The survey closes on 4 February. Don't miss your chance to have your say!

Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease GP Resource Kit

All Divisions should have received 50 copies of the GP Resource Kit from DoHA. Divisions are asked to distribute the Kit to their GPs.

An electronic version of the kit is available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ctg/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1>. Additional hard copies are available from email: ICDP@health.gov.au.

Good Medicines Better Health Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) Resources

A copy of the set of Resources developed in a partnership between the National Prescribing Service (NPS) and NACCHO were posted to each Division recently. Included in the envelope was an order form for more copies. The order form can be found at:

www.nps.org.au/consumers/our_work_with_communities/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_communities/order_form.

NPS and NACCHO have also developed a train the trainer course for utilising the resources which has been run with great success. NPS has asked GP NSW to find out if Division staff would be interested in doing the course. GP NSW will send an expression of Interest to Divisions through the list serve and CEO list in the week starting 14 February 2011.

Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program – update

Funding for the first round of Care Coordination and Supplementary sites was based a non-competitive process as pre-selected Division sites were invited to submit funding proposals in 2010-11.

In the first year (2010-11) GP NSW is contracting one lead agency in up to 12 geographic sites (based upon Division boundaries) to provide locally responsive Care Coordination and Supplementary Services (CCSS) projects to areas with the highest Aboriginal populations in NSW.

Selection of the first round sites has been based on advice from the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC), NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) and NSW Health taking into account a range of factors including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population; relationships between Divisions and Aboriginal Medical Services; opportunity to build on existing programs; and capacity to deliver services.

A comprehensive briefing of GP NSW's process for selection of CCSS sites was provided to the Divisions Executive Network meeting in September 2010, which was attended by most Division CEOs.

A letter of invitation to participate in the first funding round together with the DoHA CCSS Program Guidelines and the GP NSW CCSS funding proposal guidelines and application form, were sent to Division CEOs located within the following first round sites for 2010-11:

1. WentWest
2. Macarthur
3. GP Access
4. Central Coast
5. Mid North Coast
6. Northern Rivers
7. Riverina
8. Murrumbidgee
9. Central West
10. Dubbo Plains
11. Barwon
12. Outback

GP NSW has established an Aboriginal Health Advisory Group which will oversee implementation of CCSS together with other CtG Division specific initiatives. The Advisory Group comprises representatives from GP NSW, DoHA - OATSIH, NSW Health, RDN, ACCHS, GP and Clinical Care Coordinator advisors, NSW Divisions and a Consumer. AH&MRC have been formally invited as a member and continue to be an important partner in the implementation of the program.

The Advisory Group are currently providing feedback on the CCSS program and funding applications. The Advisory Group will assess the proposals and when approved it is expected sites will be offered contracts in late February 2011 with CCSS services commencing by end of March 2011.

Round One Funding Applications:

GP NSW has received 12 funding applications. All applications have Divisions as the lead agency with program delivery being planned in partnership with Aboriginal Medical Services. There are a range of models of service proposed depending on local need and other existing local programs. Some Divisions have already identified the Care Coordinator from existing staff others plan to recruit to the position. All care coordinator positions will work with and value add to existing Aboriginal Outreach Worker positions and Indigenous Health Coordinator Positions. They will also work very closely with the Connecting Care Programs, funded through the Area Health Services. Funding submissions will be reviewed by the Aboriginal Health Advisory Group Review Panel in February with contracts to be offered and sites funded by end of February.

As this is a new program with a challenging target group of patients, GP NSW has taken a strategic decision to identify and invite applications from potential sites - not to rush the program but to support sites to build relationships and get the process right from the beginning.

Round Two Funding Applications:

Additional CCSS sites will be selected in a second round of funding in 2011-12. There will most definitely be potential for other sites to come on board in the next financial year 2011-12 through the same process as for the current financial year. We expect to send out invitations to apply for second round funding by early May 2011.

On-line CCSS reporting platform:

GP NSW is working in partnership with the other SBOs to develop an online reporting platform to support CCSS sites in the collection of clinical patient data. The reporting platform will be designed in a similar way to the Minimum Data

Set used with the ATAPs program. Divisions will be able to enter identifiable patient data into the system, and SBOs will be able to extract de-identified patient data, and aggregate this for state level reporting required for DOHA. Divisions will also be able to extract data from this system as required for ongoing program monitoring.

It is our aim to keep this on line reporting as simple as possible and reduce any double entry of data. GP NSW will provide training and support to care coordinators to familiarise them with the online reporting program.

CCSS program evaluation:

The Menzies Institute has been contracted by DOHA to evaluate the CTG program overall. GP NSW is currently in discussion with the Menzies with a view to using them to evaluate the CCSS program in NSW and possibly in other states and territories. GP NSW is keen to capture the successes of the CCSS program with an evaluation strategy that incorporates to context of other measures under the CTG.

If your Division is planning some formal or informal evaluation activities as part of your CCSS program, we would love to hear about your plans. We would be keen to try to capture this data as part of the overall CCSS program evaluation.

For further information on CCSS:

If you have any questions about the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services please do not hesitate to contact Jerry Bacich at jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au or Sarah Bradfield (Aboriginal Health and Chronic Disease Program Support) sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au or phone 02 9239 2900.