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General News

2011 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout

The valiant Closing the Gap teams from Central West Division and Dubbo Plains braved the cold and wet conditions over the long weekend at Bathurst to provide information and resources to the huge crowds attending and competing at the 2011 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout.

Over the weekend the team handed out 2,600 show bags stuffed full of goodies including healthy messages and CtG information, 3,250 health check prompt [wallet](#) cards and 1,700 NSW Divisions [contact lists](#). 150 BP and BSL checks were done over the 2 busiest days.



Some of the team with Timana Tahu 1

Because of the weather the team took refuge in the Elders tent, and were able to carry out health checks there too!

The team were photographed for the Koori Mail for a story over the next 2 editions and interviewed by NITV for a feature on the Knockout.

Thank you to Melissa Mills, Jelneetah Fogg, Amanda Read and Andrew Townsend from Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice and Colleen Allen, Alison Logan, Dr Ross Wilson and especially Brian Grant from Central West Division for waving the Closing the Gap flag on behalf of all NSW Divisions.

Keep your eye out over the coming weeks and let Wendy know if you spot any of the 715 wallet cards in your Division/Medicare Local, or hear of anyone contacting the Division because they heard about Closing the Gap at the Knockout.

A Day in the Life of Closing the Gap

Who is using the anonymous diary?

What state?

52% from NSW
24% from Qld
9% WA
6% Vic
9% no answer

Where are they from?

32% Rural
26% Metro
24% Regional
9% Remote
9% no answer

What roles do they hold?

59% IHPOs
18% Care Coordinators
12% ATSIOWs
9% no answer

How are they feeling about their job?

32% Engaged, Really enjoying it
15% Ok, overall still happy
6% Disengaged, thinking of leaving
9% Other
38% no answer

The best thing that happened today:

- *Today I was able to help a family of 11 who all had some form of illness who were presenting to After Hours frequently because they did not have a GP in their area.*
- *Obtaining a copy in the local Indigenous language book for our Resource.*

The most frustrating thing that happened today:

- *Finding out through the Medicare line that the PBS co Payment Measure I had registered for two months ago had not been received despite me physically handing the practice the completed form, faxing it to them and emailing it to the practice manager. This practice has received lots of information about CTG and the practice manager has attended many CTG meetings.*
- *The most frustrating thing is when I'm not able to visit anyone, when there are no cars available.*

Is today a diary day?

To share your thoughts, go to

<http://staging.gpnsw.com.au/survey/index.php?sid=43811&lang=en>

Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program update

Letters of offer and contracts have already gone out to most of the second round CCSS sites. Some of the second round CCSS sites have already employed their Care Coordinators and with new a workforce comes the need to roll out additional orientation and skills training workshops. So if you have not had an opportunity to attend either of these workshops this year please set aside the following dates:

Flinders University Chronic Disease Self-Management Training – Tuesday 8th to Wednesday 9th November 2011.

GP NSW CCSS Orientation Workshop – Thursday 10th to Friday 11th November 2011.

Both workshops will be held in Sydney – registration details will be sent to Care Coordinators very soon.

GP NSW recently held a successful webinar for Care Coordinators on how to use our MME online reporting platform. All of the questions from the webinar have been recorded and GP NSW will address each of them in a FAQ document that we will make available on our website very soon. We will be surveying Care Coordinators in the coming weeks to see

what other topics/guest presenters they would like to have included on our regular webinars. The intention is to run a webinar once every month. So if you have any suggestions let us know or complete the survey once we send it out. For more information about the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program contact Jerry Bacich jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au or Sarah Bradfield sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au

Indigenous Immunisation Schedule Poster is now available

The Indigenous Immunisation Schedule poster, shown at the August CtG workshop, which provides information on the correct timing of vaccinations, Healthy Kids check and health assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, is now available. To get the ball rolling, GP NSW will send all Divisions Immunisation Officers a number of posters that should supply your Division. If you need more, please contact the immunisation team at GP NSW Andrew andrewcramp@gpnsw.com.au or Dora. doratomaras@gpnsw.com.au

Magnesium Aspartate approved on PBS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Magnesium aspartate (Magsup) has now been listed on the PBS - approved for the management of low Mg levels and chronic kidney disease in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The listing will take effect from 1st December 2011. This listing follows requests from several member ACCHSs for this medicine to be available for the Aboriginal population. For further information please find The Ministers announcement attached, or alternatively visit the website <http://www.pbs.gov.au>

Reports and Press Release of Interest

Latest AIHW stats on Indigenous health

A report released recently by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) provides detailed statistics and analysis on the state of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The online report, [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework: detailed analyses](#), provides over 2,000 pages of comprehensive analysis against 71 health indicators covering health status and outcomes, determinants of health and health systems performance.

Data from this report was used to produce the summary *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2010 report* GP NSW posted a hard copy of this report to each CtG funded division which you should receive before the end of October.

Closing the Gap Resources for General Practice

Think GP - Aboriginal Health - Closing the Gap in your Practice.

GP NSW has commissioned Think GP to develop a free online educational activity for GPs. The training can be accessed at <http://thinkgp.com.au/education/content/6846>. A promotional [flyer](#) is attached

This is not cultural awareness or competency training. This education is about why it is important to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, and a brief explanation of what item numbers and incentives are available.

This Activity attracts:

- 2 RACGP Category 2 QI&CPD points
- RCNA: 1 CNE point (1 hour)
- ACRRM: 1 PD point

This education discusses the reasons why it is important for general practices to have systems in place to identify their patients who are Aboriginal. The education discusses the specific Medicare item numbers applicable to Aboriginal patients, as well as other specific initiatives. The barriers to care are discussed and methods to overcome these are explored. The role of these initiatives and item numbers in patient management is discussed.

Closing the Gap Resources for Community

Australian Government's Care for Kids' Ears campaign-

The campaign has been designed and produced to increase awareness of ear disease and hearing loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Targeted resources promoting the ear health message have been developed for parents and carers of young children and for people working with early childhood groups. The resource kit for early childhood and community groups uses two cartoon characters, Kathy and Ernie, to present simple messages about ear health in an engaging format for children. The kit includes a storybook and children's activities. Brochures have also been developed for parents and carers explaining signs and symptoms of ear disease, as well as highlighting the importance of regular ear checks for children. The kit for early childhood and community groups and additional brochures for parents and carers can be ordered from the campaign website: [Care for Kids' Ears: Order Materials](http://www.careforkidsears.health.gov.au/) or further information can be sourced from <http://www.careforkidsears.health.gov.au/>



Community Health Action Pack- The Community Health Action pack is now available to Local Community Campaign Grant recipients as well as Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle teams across the country. The Live Longer! Community Health Action Pack is also available as an online resource, available at <http://livelonger.health.gov.au/> this pack is a useful tool in helping you promote four simple messages for healthier lives in your community – give up smoking, eat healthy food, take regular exercise, and have regular medical check-ups, helping the community to Live Longer!

Conferences, Workshops and Events

4th Annual Chronic Care for Aboriginal People State Forum- The registrations are now open for the **4th Annual Chronic Care for Aboriginal People State Forum**. The NSW Department of Health, Chronic Care for Aboriginal People (CCAP) program would like to invite you to the 2011 forum. The theme this year will be: **“Clinical and Cultural Competence in Chronic Disease Management”**

This year's focus will be looking at the four major chronic diseases prevalent in Aboriginal populations across NSW and beyond.

The chronic disease categories are:

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Renal and
- Diabetes.

For further information and to register please visit www.hssevents.health.nsw.gov.au/ccap

Contact Us

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