



<b>IN THIS ISSUE...</b>	
<b>HEALTH REFORM UPDATE POLICY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CALL FOR PAPERS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; CONFERENCES 2011</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>GENERAL PRACTICE NSW CONTACTS</b>	<b>9</b>

*For the latest news on the **Closing the Gap** programs click [here](#) for the **Aboriginal Health Update...***

## HEALTH REFORM UPDATE

### Feedback sought on eHealth records blueprint

A national blueprint for the development of eHealth records ready for their 1 July 2012 launch has been released. Release of the blueprint is a step forward for the development of personally controlled electronic health records (PCEHR). The draft *Concept of Operations* document was released today and describes how the PCEHR system will work, its benefits, the structure and the important privacy principles. The release is intended to prompt further discussion on its design and input into areas that require further discussion and development. Feedback on the draft *Concept of Operations* may be submitted at <http://yourhealth.gov.au> until 31 May 2011. Feedback will be consolidated and the draft *Concept of Operations* will be updated to take account of stakeholder opinions.

## POLICY

### Developing a strategy to promote the generation and effective use of population health research for NSW Health: 2011–2015

The Population Health Division of the NSW Department of Health has developed a 5-year strategy to improve the effectiveness of its resource investment in population health research. This paper describes the development of the strategy, Promoting the generation and effective use of population health research in NSW: a Strategy for NSW Health 2011–2015. A review of Australian and international strategic research documents and stakeholder interviews was conducted to support the development of the strategy. [http://www.publish.csiro.au/index.cfm?act=view\\_file&file\\_id=NB10066.pdf](http://www.publish.csiro.au/index.cfm?act=view_file&file_id=NB10066.pdf)

### Easier Access to Navigate Aged Care System

From 1 July 2011, older Australians and their carers will find it easier to access and navigate the aged care system with the introduction of a single phone number to access and navigate the system as the first step in the phased implementation of the one-stop shop measure. To view the full media release see: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb038.htm>

### Hold the Salt: Simmer Sauces and Processed Meats

The sodium content of many simmer sauces and the sodium and saturated fat content of many processed meats will be reduced under a voluntary agreement with leading food manufacturers and retailers. For full media release see: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ck-ck011.htm>



## Get Involved

The Online Cancer Services Directory (OCSD) is a one stop shop for locating NSW cancer services close to home. But the NSW Cancer Institute needs some help to test it. They are seeking interested General Practitioners to participate in a one-on-one paid user testing session (in your office) to provide feedback on this website. The directory is a long-term project with the ultimate aim of developing a comprehensive repository of cancer services for New South Wales as well as supporting General Practitioners in providing referrals that are as close as possible to where the patient lives or wishes to seek treatment. It currently includes a list of cancer multidisciplinary teams currently operating across New South Wales (and the specialists working within these), as well as the chemotherapy, radiotherapy and palliative care treatment centres treating patients. It will also link to supportive care information. Participants will be paid for their time.

Those able to assist should contact Jo Walton, CanNET Project Officer, Phone 0419 163 283 or [joanne.walton@cancerinstitute.org.au](mailto:joanne.walton@cancerinstitute.org.au).

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

### Contact Tracing

Divisions are urged to forward this information onto practices. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> article in a series of articles which provides information and resources to your general practices.

#### When to consider provider referral STI contact tracing

Within General Practice, most patients will choose to inform their partners themselves (Patient Referral contact tracing). However Provider Referral contact tracing (doctor, delegate or another health agency informs the patient's partners) is an option and both can be offered to patients. Consider if the practice nurse at your clinic can assist in contacting partners of patients.

In some situations, contacting your patient's partners directly may be preferred because:

- HIV, syphilis and gonorrhoea have increased health risks.
- Repeat infections may indicate a partner may not have been tested and treated.
- Within Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders communities due to stigma and issues around confidentiality.
- Incarcerated or detained partners may be more difficult to contact.
- Casual or ex-partners are less likely to be notified.
- The patient requests.

Remember you must have your patients consent before contacting their partners.

#### Tips for Success

- Decide on how you will contact the partner; a mobile number, sending an SMS to the mobile, sending a letter or face-to-face if your patient has brought them along.
- Consider what confidential message, if any, you will leave. An example is '*Please ring Dr. XXX practice regarding a health matter*'. Include a contact number and the preferred time when you or your delegate can be reached.
- When the person answers the phone or calls you back, check with them that it is an ok time to speak, introduce yourself and state the reason for the call. '*John, you have been named as a sexual partner of someone that has tested positive for gonorrhoea*'. *I am calling to offer you an appointment to come in for a test and some medication*'. *Do you know what gonorrhoea is?*' Provide basic information over the phone and the number to the NSW Sexual Health Infoline if they have additional questions 1800 451 624.



- Offer an appointment at your practice or refer to the local Sexual Health Clinic.

For complicated contact tracing or if you have been unable to get in touch with the partner seek advice from the local Sexual Health Clinic or call SHIL as they will be able to support you with contact tracing.

## RESOURCES

### New website for Health Consumers NSW

*Health Consumers NSW*

The new peak body for people who use health services in NSW, Health Consumers NSW, now has a website where you can find out more information about the organisation, upcoming training, and membership forms. The website will continue to be developed and feedback is welcome.

See: [www.hcnsw.org.au](http://www.hcnsw.org.au)

### AGPAL launches new website

AGPAL launched its exciting, innovative and general practice dedicated website on Wednesday 20 April, redeveloped to better service both existing and potential clients.

The new website [www.agpal.com.au](http://www.agpal.com.au) promises clients a new era of quality improvement services in the changing primary health care environment.

AGPAL CEO Dr Stephen Clark said it was vital AGPAL continually improve its accreditation services. "The new AGPAL website ensures general practices accredited by AGPAL continue to receive improved resources and support, recognising the benefits of AGPAL accreditation over other providers."

"Simplified navigation and a permanent homepage login tab will ensure users can find the information they are looking for in fewer clicks. Clients can more easily access AGPALs online resource library *QbAY* and our web-based accreditation tool *AccreditationPro*, making accreditation a little more stress free," Dr Clark said.

"As AGPALs business grows we will continue to deliver our brand promise of adding exceptional value to general practices by providing improved quality resources and exceptional accreditation support through dedicated Client Service Consultants."

The revamped website will continue to evolve in the coming months to support the RACGP's 4<sup>th</sup> edition Standards for general practitioners through the provision of new *QbAY* resources.

AGPAL's subsidiary Quality in Practice (QIP) recently launched its own new website [www.qip.com.au](http://www.qip.com.au).

### Data.gov.au

Data.gov.au provides an easy way to find, access and reuse public datasets from the Australian Government and state and territory governments. Functionality and available data will continue to improve with user feedback. Make contact to suggest new datasets or catalogue links and provide general feedback about this website.

See: <http://data.gov.au>



## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### New online training: Early childhood oral health: case studies from general practice

Tooth decay is one of the most common disorders in childhood, yet it is mostly preventable. A particularly damaging form, *early childhood caries* (ECC) is a serious dental condition occurring during the preschool years of a child's life when developing primary ('baby') teeth are especially vulnerable. If treated early, ECC can be reversed. Screening for ECC involves simply lifting the upper lip to check the front teeth first, and then having a quick look inside at the back teeth. Early childhood oral health management skills are the focus of a new online learning activity from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

The activity, *early childhood oral health: case studies from general practice* are available on the *gplearning* website ([www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)) and for free on the Clin-ed website ([www.clined.com.au](http://www.clined.com.au)). Developed in conjunction with the Centre for Oral Health Strategy, NSW, the activity supports general practitioners and practice nurses to effectively perform their critical role in identifying, preventing and managing early childhood caries. This activity also contributes to CPD hours. Referrals to public oral health services for children aged 0-5 years identified as at risk of, or having signs of, early childhood caries, can be made using a GP Referral form: [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/gp\\_referral\\_form.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/gp_referral_form.pdf).

For further information on the NSW Early Childhood Oral Health Program, visit: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/cohs/resources.asp>.

Or contact: Tanya Schinkewitsch - Centre for Oral Health Strategy [Tanya\\_Schinkewitsch@wsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tanya_Schinkewitsch@wsahs.nsw.gov.au).

### New online diabetes education program for Practice Nurses

The Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA) and the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) has launched a new online education program, *Diabetes Management in the Primary Care Setting*.

The online education program is separated into two units:

Unit One: *Introduction to Diabetes* has been designed for those who aim to update or increase their basic diabetes and diabetes management knowledge. This unit will provide the learner with a basic understanding of the disease and its impact on patients and the community. It will also provide an understanding of the diabetes specific knowledge needed to deliver quality care to diabetes patients and their carers as well as identify when to refer patients with more complex diabetes care requirements.

Unit Two: *Supporting People Living with Diabetes* has been designed to provide more detailed knowledge about specific situations and individual circumstances that influence diabetes care and management goals for different population groups. This unit is aimed at those who have an active role in the diabetes care team and provides knowledge on how to individualise basic diabetes care and management.

In addition to the online modules, the education program also features offline assessment tasks. The first unit of the course is now available, whilst enrolment in unit 2 will commence shortly after. The course will take approximately 20-25 hours to complete.

The course has been developed by ADEA with content reviewed by APNA to ensure it is grounded in the practice context experienced by nurses in the primary care sector.

For more information about *Diabetes Management in the Primary Care Setting* or to enrol in the course, please visit APNA Online Learning at [www.apna.asn.au/onlinelearning](http://www.apna.asn.au/onlinelearning).



## RESEARCH

### The ignored majority: the voice of arthritis 2011

*A national survey to discover the impact of arthritis on Australians*

[Arthritis Australia](#)

Voice of Arthritis 2011 was a community based survey which recruited a representative sample of over 1000 people with arthritis across Australia. The purpose was to find out how arthritis affected people at home and at work and what factors were associated with good or poor outcomes.

Analysis of the results gathered revealed three distinct groups of people.

About a third are coping quite well with their arthritis, 52% are doing fairly badly and 16% are doing badly. The two groups which are doing worse represent over two thirds (68%) and are experiencing significantly more pain, disability with reduction of their work capacity and increased financial strain and social isolation.

A large proportion of people with arthritis (79%) also have another condition such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or depression and in over half the cases, these conditions followed the diagnosis of arthritis.

The worse someone is faring with their arthritis is associated with their perceived standard of care, the information made available to them, and associated access – not with the severity of their arthritis, how long they have had it, their age, their income, private health insurance cover nor other illnesses.

[http://www.arthritisaustralia.com.au/images/stories/ArthAus\\_VoiceofArthritisFINALFINAL.pdf](http://www.arthritisaustralia.com.au/images/stories/ArthAus_VoiceofArthritisFINALFINAL.pdf)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Call For Submissions For Donatelife Community Awareness Grants



The Organ and Tissue Authority is pleased to announce the next round of Community Awareness Grants to support the Australian Government's policy for Australia to implement a World's Best Practice Approach to Organ and Tissue Donation for Transplantation, and specifically to conduct activities to promote organ and tissue donation with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A number of priority audiences have been identified for community awareness education and engagement activities that address potential barriers to decision-making and discussion about organ and tissue donation. The priority audiences include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Greek Orthodox communities.

Total funding of \$340,000 will be available for education and awareness-raising activities about organ and tissue donation that target culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia.

Applications for grants are invited from non-government organisations and professional bodies, including community-based, not for profit, cultural and religious organisations or local government associations.

We also encourage you to send this announcement to members and networks that may be interested in this round of grants and to consider publishing a link to the grants on your website.



Information about the application process and relevant documentation can be found at: [www.donatelife.gov.au/The-Authority/Grants-funding-application-guidelines.html](http://www.donatelife.gov.au/The-Authority/Grants-funding-application-guidelines.html).

For more information about the Organ and Tissue Authority and Australia's national reform program to increase organ and tissue donation rates please visit [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au).

**The closing date for applications is: 5.00pm AEST on Friday 20 May 2011.**

**Successful organisations will be notified by: Friday 10 June 2011.**

Please direct all enquiries regarding the Community Awareness Grants Program to [grants@donatelife.gov.au](mailto:grants@donatelife.gov.au) or phone 02 6198 9800.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Call for Papers for the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference 4-6 of November 2011.

*ALMA 1<sup>st</sup> Announcement and Call for Papers* for the **Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference 4-6 of November 2011**. The theme for this conference is *Healthy Lifestyle and Sustainability* including workplace health and lifestyle medicine components throughout the program with Registration and a Pre-Conference Symposium on the Friday focusing on – *Lifestyle Prevention & Reversal of Type 2 Diabetes*.

For more information about this Conference please email ALMA on [info@alma-inc.com.au](mailto:info@alma-inc.com.au).



## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES 2011

May	
5 – 6	<p><b>Aboriginal Health Research Conference-‘Research for a better Future’</b> 5 – 6 May 2011 Doltone House, Pyrmont, Sydney</p> <p>This conference will showcase Aboriginal Health Research and promote community, research and policy engagement and exchange in Aboriginal health, to allow communities to describe their health and research priorities and to provide opportunities for sharing information and establishing collaborations among Aboriginal community members, researchers and policy makers. The conference will be held on 5 - 6 May 2011 in Sydney.</p> <p>To register go to: <a href="https://www.secureregistrations.com/criah2011/">https://www.secureregistrations.com/criah2011/</a></p> <p>Further information contact Julie McGraw <a href="mailto:jmccraw@gemspl.com.au">jmccraw@gemspl.com.au</a>.</p>
10	<p><b>The NSW Health &amp; Equity Statement Ten Years On: Where To Next?</b> Public Lecture by Sarah Simpson Introduced by Fran Baum Tuesday 10 May 2011 6-8pm University of NSW Lower Ground Seminar Room, Wallace Wurth, Room Number: LG02</p> <p>Register to attend in person <a href="mailto:mary.knopp@sswahs.nsw.gov.au">mary.knopp@sswahs.nsw.gov.au</a> or 9612 0779 Or attend by webinar. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <a href="https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/930440281">https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/930440281</a></p> <p>Further details: Elizabeth Harris or Marilyn Wise ( Ph: 96210779)</p>
June	
1	<p><b>Mental Health in the land of drought and flooding rains...impacts and interventions</b> 1 June 2011 Sydney</p> <p>The second annual conference of the Mental Health Association (MHA) NSW. A limited number of consumer and carer registrations are available at no cost.</p> <p>For more information see: <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.asn.au">www.mentalhealth.asn.au</a></p>
July	
3 – 10	<p><b>Naidoc Week 2011 - Change: the Next Step is Ours</b> 3 – 10 July 2011</p> <p>For entry forms and information on NAIDOC Week, visit <a href="http://www.naidoc.org.au/">http://www.naidoc.org.au/</a>.</p>
August	
20	<p><b>Choose to be Challenged - Conference</b> 20 August 2011 Family Planning NSW Venue: Aerial UTS Function Centre, Level 7, Building 10, 235 Jones Street, Ultimo</p> <p>Informative, relevant clinical and research updates in reproductive and sexual health which includes panel discussions, speakers and workshops!</p> <p>Key Note speakers include: Dr Phillip Goldstone - Marie Stopes International, Dr Deborah</p>



	<p>Bateson -Family Planning NSW, Dr Karen Canfell-NSW Cancer Council, Ms Sherin Jarvis-Royal Hospital for Women and Professor Basil Donovan –National Centre in HIV Epidemiology &amp; Clinical Research.</p> <p>Cost \$195 Early Bird Special \$175 (prior to 17 June 2011)</p> <p>For information on speakers and registration visit: <a href="http://www.fpnsw.org.au/choosetobechallenged2011">www.fpnsw.org.au/choosetobechallenged2011</a></p> <p>Category 2 points in the RACGP and QI&amp;CPD Program for the 2011-2013 Triennium have been applied for.</p>
<b>September</b>	
<b>19 - 22</b>	<p><b>2011 National Men's Health Gathering</b> 19 - 22 September 2011 Perth, Western Australia</p> <p>The 2011 National Men's Health Gathering provides a chance for delegates to participate in strengthening the advancement of male health in the Australasian region and beyond through effective strategic planning and knowledge management. The Gathering will incorporate the 6th National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Male Health Convention, the 5th National Men and Family Relationships Forum and the 9th National Men's Health Conference. <a href="http://www.workingwithmen.org.au">www.workingwithmen.org.au</a></p>
<b>Nov</b>	
<b>4 – 6</b>	<p><b>Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference</b> 4 - 6 November 2011</p> <p>ALMA 1st Announcement and Call for Papers for the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference 4-6 of November 2011. The theme for this conference is Healthy Lifestyle and Sustainability including workplace health and lifestyle medicine components throughout the program with Registration and a Pre-Conference Symposium on the Friday focusing on – Lifestyle Prevention &amp; Reversal of Type 2 Diabetes.</p> <p>For more information about this Conference please email ALMA on <a href="mailto:info@alma-inc.com.au">info@alma-inc.com.au</a>.</p>
<b>9 – 11</b>	<p><b>Youth Health 2011: It's totally important! – 8<sup>th</sup> Australian &amp; New Zealand Adolescent Health Conference</b> 9 – 11 November 2011 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, NSW.</p> <p>To submit an abstract for the conference, please visit <a href="http://www.youthhealth2011.com.au">www.youthhealth2011.com.au</a> and click on the Call for Abstracts section. Abstracts will be accepted for oral and poster presentations and for workshops.</p> <p>The closing date for submissions is Monday, 20 June 2011.</p>
<b>25 – 27</b>	<p><b>NSW RDN /RDA (NSW) Rural GPs Conference</b> 25 – 27 November 2011 CPD Weekend Location: TBC</p> <p>For further information, contact Arna Wotherspoon - Phone: 02 8337 8100, Fax: 02 8337 8110, Email: <a href="mailto:conferences@nswrdn.com.au">conferences@nswrdn.com.au</a>.</p>



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