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

## HEALTH REFORM UPDATE

### COAG's Expert Panel

The Heads of Agreement on National Health Reform provides for an Expert Panel to review the Implementation of the Elective Surgery Targets and National Access Guarantee and the Four Hour National Access Emergency Department Target, particularly in regards to practical impediments and safety and quality issues related to their implementation and application. The Expert Panel held its first meeting on 12 May 2011 and agreed to a consultation process that will include visits to each state and territory to meet with key stakeholders. More information can be found here:

[http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/9F39B89443BE745FCA25789B0016DDB8/\\$File/newsletter\\_mk3.pdf](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/9F39B89443BE745FCA25789B0016DDB8/$File/newsletter_mk3.pdf)

## POLICY

### Nationally consistent professional registration renewal dates

More than one in every 40 Australians is a registered health practitioner. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is in the process of aligning registration renewal dates nationally for practitioners. By 2012, nurses and midwives will be due to renew on 31 May, most medical practitioners will be due to renew on 30 September and all other registered professions (psychology, dental, podiatry, osteopathy, physiotherapy, optometry, chiropractic and pharmacy) will be due to renew by 30 November each year. This year the period of renewal and fees may be varied pro-rata to align with the new national dates by 2012. AHPRA states that nationally-consistent renewal dates will mean more Comprehensive and accurate workforce data and greater simplicity in renewal processes. AHPRA has expanded its direct contact to registrants to remind them to renew registration.

To ensure practitioners receive reminders, AHPRA are encouraging practitioners to make sure their contact details are up-to-date and to provide an email address. There are 528,000 health practitioners registered across the 10 professions in the National Scheme.

More information is available on the AHPRA website <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>.

## GET INVOLVED

### Lead Clinicians Groups - Final comment sought

Lead Clinicians Groups were announced in May 2010 to complement the National Health and Hospital Network Reforms. The initiative seeks to recognise the role of clinical leadership and expertise to inform delivery of safe and higher quality care, consistent with evidence based clinical practices and service delivery. It is expected that the National Lead Clinicians Groups will advise the Australian Government on national priorities and strategies to improve patient care.



The first set of Local Lead Clinicians Groups and a National Lead Clinicians Group are expected to be phased in from July 2011, with the remaining groups commencing operations from July 2012.

The Minister for Health and Ageing has now released the Commonwealth proposed position on Lead Clinicians Groups for final comment. The Commonwealth Position Paper outlines key objectives, roles, responsibilities and membership of National and Local Lead Clinicians Groups.

The Commonwealth Position Paper on Lead Clinician Groups can be found at [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au) Feedback is due on or before the 17 June 2011

## Australian Association of Practice Managers NSW - Practice Manager of the Year Award

AAPM NSW is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for our 2011 Practice Manager of the Year Award, proudly sponsored by Cutcher & Neale.



The Award is promoted by the Australian Association of Practice Managers (NSW branch), a non-profit organisation founded in 1979 which has grown to become the peak professional body representing Practice Managers and the profession of Practice Management in the healthcare industry throughout Australia.

The award is designed to promote the role and status of Practice Managers in the healthcare environment. It provides the opportunity to recognise and reward a Practice Manager for his or her special contributions to medical, dental or allied health in New South Wales.

Those eligible to nominate include all practitioners or staff in the area of General Practice, Specialist Practice, Dental or Allied Health Practices who employ Practice Managers. Practice Managers may nominate themselves.

The award will be presented at the Practice Manager of the Year dinner, sponsored by HESTA, to be held in Sydney on Friday, 26 August.

Do you employ a Practice Manager that you would like to nominate for this award? If so then please contact Helen Kenny [hkenny@aapm.org.au](mailto:hkenny@aapm.org.au) or Caroline O'Donnell [caroline0@aol.com.au](mailto:caroline0@aol.com.au) for further information and nomination forms. Nominations close 8 July 2011.

## Sign up to Support the Plain Packaging Pledge World No Tobacco Day

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, has joined public health advocates for World No Tobacco Day in signing the Plain Packaging Pledge in support of the Government's proposed plain packaging legislation.

To view the full media release, select the link below:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr110.htm>

## RESOURCES

### Medicare Locals in rural Australia

The National Rural Health Alliance has developed a new fact sheet explaining Medicare Locals and the expected challenges for MLs in rural and remote Australia.

Factsheet: <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/factsheets/Fact-Sheet-29-medicare-locals.pdf>



## New beyondblue clinical practice guidelines

These management guidelines review the current evidence relating to bone and metabolic health in patients with nonmetastatic prostate cancer who are receiving androgen deprivation therapy (ADT). They are primarily relevant for the large proportion of men with early, non-metastatic prostate cancer who often have excellent prognoses.

These guidelines do not address the uncertainties about the risk–benefit ratio of non-palliative use of ADT, and do not offer guidance as to when to (or when not to) use ADT in treating early prostate cancer.

[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194\\_06\\_210311/gro10289\\_fm.pdf](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_06_210311/gro10289_fm.pdf)

## New consumer website – It’s my health

Itsmhealth.com.au is part provided by Australia’s leading print and online media organisation for doctors and pharmacists, Reed Business Information. This group is behind [australiandoctor.com.au](http://australiandoctor.com.au), the leading news and information website for Australian General Practitioners and New Scientist - a weekly magazine launched in 1956. The rationale behind the site is that the majority of health related internet searches in Australia go overseas, to countries that don’t follow the same health guidelines as Australia. This can be confusing, misleading and potentially dangerous. Even within Australia there are so many different views about treatment on the internet. So these are the pillars that have guided this website from the beginning:

- Australian
- Based on evidence
- Easy to access and understand
- Empowering to you
- Speaks to people personally – not lecturing or authoritarian

<http://www.itsmyhealth.com.au/home>

## New Influenza Factsheet

National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance (NCIRS) has produced a new influenza fact sheet which is now available on the NCIRS website at: <http://www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/fact-sheets/influenza-fact-sheet.pdf>.

## New innovative health website - Beacon

Developed by The Centre for Mental Health Research at the Australian National University, Beacon is a free online portal of mental and physical e-health applications. Consumers and health professionals alike may like to use this resource to identify high quality internet and mobile phone based health interventions that work.

Beacon provides expert ratings based on the scientific evidence for each intervention or application. Over 35 categories are included on Beacon, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, phobias, smoking, alcohol, drug use, diabetes, stress, insomnia, tinnitus, and many more. Beacon can be accessed at [www.beacon.anu.edu.au](http://www.beacon.anu.edu.au).

## New electronic tool for hospitals

The National Prescribing Service has launched a New electronic tool for hospitals. It’s a drug use evaluation tool for the discharge management of patients with acute coronary syndromes [DMACS e-DUE]. The tool is used to promote adherence to evidence-based guidelines from the National Heart Foundation and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. [http://www.nps.org.au/news\\_and\\_media/media\\_releases](http://www.nps.org.au/news_and_media/media_releases)



## NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES

### Psychologist informal network opportunity

Several psychologists from Divisions in NSW wish to identify other psychologists currently directly employed in GP Divisions/GP networks. They are hoping to form an informal network which is not intended to replace existing mental health networks in Divisions, but rather provide an opportunity for collegial support and discussing issues existing in the overlap between professional practice (e.g. professional associations, registration requirements, relevant CPD) and Division based work. Given the raft of changes occurring in both the psychology profession and in Divisions, such a network may facilitate adapting to new environments.

Psychologists employed in Divisions/GP networks who may be interested in being part of an informal network can email Helen Correia Psychologist, Bankstown GP Division, [helen@bankstowngp.com.au](mailto:helen@bankstowngp.com.au) or Leanne Donoghue-Tamplin Mental Health and Aged Care Program Manager, Central Coast Division of General Practice [leanne@ccdgp.com.au](mailto:leanne@ccdgp.com.au) and ask to be added to the list. This would also help us to identify whether similar groups already exist. Communication might initially occur through a web based forum.

## RESEARCH & DATA

### Trends in access to dental care among Australian adults 1994-2008

Abstract: Between 1994 and 2008 half of all Australians visited a dentist most years and the proportion of those who visited for a check-up increased from 46% to 55%. However, there were growing inequalities in the use of dental care. People on low incomes, those who live in rural areas and those without dental insurance did not have the same gains in visiting a dentist regularly for a check-up compared to higher income earners, urban dwellers and those with dental insurance.

Further information: [Trends in access to dental care among Australian adults 1994-2008](#) and [media release](#)

### Dementia among aged care residents: first information from the Aged Care Funding Instrument

Abstract: The Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) is a new tool to appraise the care needs of permanent residents in residential aged care facilities. The ACFI appraisal was used to identify more than 104,400 permanent residents in 2008-09 who had a diagnosis of dementia. This equates to 53% of all residents with an ACFI appraisal in this financial year. Seventy per cent of residents with a dementia diagnosis were female reflecting their overall proportion in residential care. Approximately 79% of all residents with dementia were aged 70 years and over.

Further information: [Dementia among aged care residents: first information from the Aged Care Funding Instrument](#) and [media release](#)

### Mandatory folic acid and iodine fortification in Australia and New Zealand: baseline report for monitoring

This report presents key baseline data for monitoring mandatory folic acid and iodine fortification in Australia and New Zealand. Data are presented for each component of the fortification monitoring frameworks as follows: food composition; folic acid and iodine intake; folic acid and iodine status of the populations; and health outcomes.

[Mandatory folic acid and iodine fortification in Australia and New Zealand: baseline report for monitoring](#)



## Asthma Foundation NSW survey

A new survey conducted by Asthma Foundation NSW during March/ April 2011, shows asthmatics are spending too much time in their pyjamas as a result of their condition. Information was collected from 431 adults and 273 children with asthma. Of those 63% lived in metropolitan and 37% in rural areas. The headline results in the adult population showed that:

- 59% are requiring medical attention at least twice a year as a result of asthma flare-ups, and 31% four or more times a year.
- 21% (1 in 5) went to hospital in the past year.
- 44% of respondents had at least a day off work due to their asthma, 22% took at least a week.

Children fared little better:

- 51% of the children surveyed visited their GP because of asthma flare-ups in the past year.
- 28% went to hospital because of asthma exacerbations in the past year.
- 70% of children have had to take time off school or child care due to asthma, with 34% of children having at least a week off in the last year

Despite the availability of subsidised medication and asthma management information, this consumer snapshot shows that people are still having trouble controlling their asthma. People with asthma are encouraged to register for an Asthma Control Pack at [www.asthmafoundation.org.au](http://www.asthmafoundation.org.au), with information resources and tools which have proven to help people control their asthma.



## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES 2011

JUNE	
7	<p><b>Teaching &amp; Parenting Skills to Stay Sane! Strategies to promote mental health &amp; coping</b> 7 June 2011 at 6.30—9pm Venue: Ryedale Room, Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Rd, West Ryde Presented by: Dr Sandra Heriot Author &amp; Clinical Psychologist Cost: \$25 LDC Member \$55 Non LDC Member \$50 Seminar Entry &amp; NEW Membership Registration &amp; payment available online <a href="http://www.ldc.org.au">www.ldc.org.au</a> Enquiries: 9806 9960 (LDC Office)</p>
16	<p><b>Healthy Ageing Talk</b> 16 June at 10:30am Topic: Osteoporosis, with questions relating to Thyroid, Pituitary Disease &amp; Diabetes Speaker: Dr Michael Hooper, Endocrinologist Venue: Auditorium, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney RSVP: Bookings essential, 9286 3868 Morning Tea available. Members free, guests \$5</p>
30	<p><b>NSW Divisions Network Accreditation Meeting.</b> This meeting is for Division staff who provide accreditation support for General Practice. Thursday 30 June at 12.30pm – 4.30pm Venue: South Eastern Sydney Division – Level 2, 6-8 Crewe place, Rosebery Speakers: Judy Evans, RACGP eHealth Program Manager and Nathan Pinskier, NEHTA Clinical Lead (2.00pm -3.30pm) Registration: by 24 June to <a href="mailto:jacquelineowens@gpnsw.com.au">jacquelineowens@gpnsw.com.au</a> (spaces are limited to 20 ppl)</p>
JULY	
3 - 10	<p><b>Naidoc Week 2011 - Change: the Next Step is Ours</b> 3 – 10 July 2011 For entry forms and information on NAIDOC Week, visit <a href="http://www.naidoc.org.au/">http://www.naidoc.org.au/</a></p>
22 - 23	<p>Pain Management Symposium 22 &amp; 23 July 2011 Day 1: The Problem of Pain, Day 2: Oro facial Pain Pain Management Research Institute Information: T +61 (0)2 9926 7386 E <a href="mailto:ros.wyllie@sydney.edu.au">ros.wyllie@sydney.edu.au</a> <a href="http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/pmri">sydney.edu.au/medicine/pmri</a></p>
29 - 30	<p>NSW Rural Doctors Network 2011 Anaesthetics Procedural Conference 29 - 30 July 2011 Venue: North Sydney Harbourview Hotel Cost: GPs \$990 CPD/PDP: RACGP CPD Points and ACRRM PDP Points have been applied for. CPD Point allocation is not guaranteed and is subject to review by RACGP and ACRRM. This activity qualifies for a two day Anaesthetics Procedural Grant To register for the conference download the program from the NSW RDN website at <a href="http://www.nswrdn.com.au">www.nswrdn.com.au</a> under 'Conferences/CPD Events'. Contact: NSW Rural Doctors Network - 02 8337 8100 or <a href="mailto:conferences@nswrdn.com.au">conferences@nswrdn.com.au</a></p>



<p><b>30 - 31</b></p>	<p><b>Monash University Office Procedures Workshop 1</b> 30-31 July: Brisbane or 19-20 November: Melbourne For general practitioners Essential learning to improve your surgical techniques for ingrown toenails, joint injection etc Information: <b>Contact 07 3137 1399</b> or <a href="http://www.healthcert.com.au">www.healthcert.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>30 - 31</b></p>	<p><b>University of Queensland Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging</b> 30-31 July: Brisbane For general practitioners If you have an interest in skin cancer, want to update your knowledge and skills and learn what is new from the acknowledged leaders in the field, block out these dates in your diary now: <b>Contact 07 3137 1399</b> or <a href="http://www.healthcert.com.au">www.healthcert.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>AUGUST</b></p>	
<p><b>5 - 6</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Skin Cancer Conference</b> For general practitioners 5 - 6 August (optional workshops 4/7 August) Hamilton Island Contact 07 3137 1399 or <a href="http://www.healthcert.com.au">www.healthcert.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>20</b></p>	<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 Updates in reproductive and sexual health which includes panel discussions, speakers and workshops. Cost \$195; Early Bird Special \$175 (prior to 17 June 2011). For information on speakers and registration visit: <a href="http://www.fpnsw.org.au/choosetobechallenged2011">www.fpnsw.org.au/choosetobechallenged2011</a>.</p>
<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Teaching strategies for supervisors of international medical graduates</b> Sydney 22 August Information: contact JM&amp;A on 03 9671 4788 or <a href="mailto:info@jm-a.com.au">info@jm-a.com.au</a>.</p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Increasing clinical effectiveness: Workshops for international medical graduates</b> <b>23 August</b> Sydney For more information, please contact JM&amp;A on: 03 9671 4788 or <a href="mailto:info@jm-a.com.au">info@jm-a.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p>	
<p><b>6 - 9</b></p>	<p><b>21st annual TheMHS Conference - Resilience in Change</b> Dates: 6 – 9 September 2011 Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia Further Details: <a href="http://www.themhs.org">http://www.themhs.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@themhs.org">info@themhs.org</a></p>
<p><b>19 - 22</b></p>	<p><b>2011 National Men's Health Gathering</b> 19 - 22 September 2011 Perth, Western Australia 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>



OCTOBER	
<b>22 - 23</b>	<p><b>UQ Certificate in Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine 1 (Entry level Dermoscopy)</b>                      22 - 23 October: Brisbane or 3-4 December: Sydney  <b>For general practitioners</b>                      Apply your new skills immediately after the workshop  <b>Contact 07 3137 1399 or <a href="http://www.healthcert.com.au">www.healthcert.com.au</a></b></p>
<b>22 - 23</b>	<p><b>Certificate in Primary Care Skin Cancer Surgery (Intermediate level Surgery)</b>                      For general practitioners                      22-23 October: Brisbane                      Contact 07 3137 1399 or <a href="http://www.healthcert.com.au">www.healthcert.com.au</a></p>
<b>22 - 23</b>	<p><b>Advanced Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop (NEW nose/lower limb focus) for general practitioners</b>                      For general practitioners                      22-23 October: Brisbane                      Contact 07 3137 1399 or <a href="http://www.healthcert.com.au">www.healthcert.com.au</a></p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>The Ageing Body</b>                      25 October 2011 at 10:30am                      Topic: the heart, memory loss, continence, the importance of good nutrition, balance &amp; exercise                      Speaker: Dr George Szonyi, Geriatrician                      Venue: Auditorium, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney (Btw Park St &amp; Bathurst St – 5 minutes from Town Hall)                      RSVP: Bookings essential, 9286 3868 Morning Tea available. Members free, guests \$5</p>
NOVEMBER	
<b>4 – 6</b>	<p><b>Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference</b>                      4 - 6 November 2011                      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.                      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.                      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.                      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                      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>



## GENERAL PRACTICE NSW CONTACTS

### Management

Chief Executive Officer	Jan Newland	<a href="mailto:jannewland@gpnsw.com.au">jannewland@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Executive Assistant	Sarah van de Scheur	<a href="mailto:sarahvandescheur@gpnsw.com.au">sarahvandescheur@gpnsw.com.au</a>
General Manager	Caroline Curtin	<a href="mailto:carolinecurtin@gpnsw.com.au">carolinecurtin@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Finance Manager	Melanie Liu	<a href="mailto:melanieliu@gpnsw.com.au">melanieliu@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Corporate Services Manager	Jody Dopper	<a href="mailto:jodydopper@gpnsw.com.au">jodydopper@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Policy Development & Communication Manager	Carla Saunders	<a href="mailto:carlasaunders@gpnsw.com.au">carlasaunders@gpnsw.com.au</a>

### Program and Support Staff

(In program alphabetical order)

APCC Regional Manager	Pat Simmonds	<a href="mailto:patsimmonds@gpnsw.com.au">patsimmonds@gpnsw.com.au</a>
eHealth Support Officer	Jacqueline Owens	<a href="mailto:jacquelineowens@gpnsw.com.au">jacquelineowens@gpnsw.com.au</a>
eHealth Support Officer	Paul Bruce	<a href="mailto:paulbruce@gpnsw.com.au">paulbruce@gpnsw.com.au</a>
eHealth Support Officer	Gabe Gossage	<a href="mailto:gabegossage@gpnsw.com.au">gabegossage@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Finance Officer	Lanita Du Toit	<a href="mailto:accounts@gpnsw.com.au">accounts@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Immunisation Coordinator	Andrew Cramp	<a href="mailto:andrewcramp@gpnsw.com.au">andrewcramp@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Nursing in General Practice – Program Assistant	Olivia Moore	<a href="mailto:oliviamoore@gpnsw.com.au">oliviamoore@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Quality Control & Events Officer	Noela Walker	<a href="mailto:noelawalker@gpnsw.com.au">noelawalker@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Receptionist	Lyn Slade	<a href="mailto:reception@gpnsw.com.au">reception@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Systems Support Officer	Cassandra Smiles	<a href="mailto:cassandrasmiles@gpnsw.com.au">cassandrasmiles@gpnsw.com.au</a>

### Chronic Disease Team

Program Manager – Diabetes LMP	Tanja McLeish	<a href="mailto:tanjamcleish@gpnsw.com.au">tanjamcleish@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Aboriginal Health Coordinator	Jerry Bacich	<a href="mailto:jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au">jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Aboriginal Health Coordinator	Wendy Campbell	<a href="mailto:wendycampbell@gpnsw.com.au">wendycampbell@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Aboriginal Health Coordinator	Alex Swain	<a href="mailto:alexswain@gpnsw.com.au">alexswain@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Aged Care Access Initiative	Sarah Bradfield	<a href="mailto:sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au">sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Program Assistant - Chronic Disease	Ciara Wellard	<a href="mailto:ciarawellard@gpnsw.com.au">ciarawellard@gpnsw.com.au</a>

### Mental Health and Co Morbidity Team

Team Leader – Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol	Jane Westley	<a href="mailto:janeWestley@gpnsw.com.au">janewestley@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Coordinator – Mental Health, Divisions Support	Meg Bennett	<a href="mailto:megbennett@gpnsw.com.au">megbennett@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Shared Care Clinical Coordinator, Clinical Nurse Consultant	Natalie Healey	<a href="mailto:nataliehealey@gpnsw.com.au">nataliehealey@gpnsw.com.au</a>
Program Assistant - Mental Health & Immunisation	Dora Tomaras	<a href="mailto:doratomaras@gpnsw.com.au">doratomaras@gpnsw.com.au</a>

### Contractor

Nursing in General Practice & STI Program Coordinator Liz Meadley [lizm50@bigpond.com](mailto:lizm50@bigpond.com)

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Phone: 02 9239 2900.

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SYDNEY OFFICE: GPO Box 5433 Sydney NSW 2001 Phone: 9239 2900 Fax: 9239 2999

COFFS HARBOUR OFFICE: PO Box 6607 Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour NSW 2450 Phone: 6652 3866 Fax: 6652 6033