

GP NSW Closing the Gap Update – June 2011

General News

Photo Library available to NSW Divisions for Health Promotion resources and publications

GP NSW has had photos taken for an Aboriginal specific resource we are developing to inform community about childhood immunisation and kids health checks. The resource will be launched after anticipated changes to the NSW immunisation schedule are announced and finalised.

As a result GP NSW now has a library of high quality photos of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, some of mums and bubs and of family groups. We have permission from the families to use these images in publications developed for NSW to promote Aboriginal health and wellbeing. Divisions are welcome to use the images.

If you need images for resources, please contact Wendy or Jerry and we will arrange for samples to be sent

Seasonal Influenza 2011

Vaccination for seasonal influenza has been shown to be an effective way of preventing influenza and other related illnesses. Those who are considered to be at a higher risk of getting the flu such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are aged 15 years and over, being pregnant or anyone over six months with a chronic illness receive the free seasonal influenza vaccine under the National Immunise Program (NIP). To promote the availability of the vaccine, the Department of Health and Ageing has developed fact sheets, brochures and posters. For further information, or to view please find examples attached (click here to see the [poster](#) and here for the [brochure](#)) and to order any of the communication materials, you can contact the Immunise Australia Information Line on 1800 671 811 or the Immunise Australia Program website: www.immunise.health.gov.au



All Together Now launched its first national campaign on Monday 16 May!

It's called 'give racism the finger', aimed at promoting bystander action. We're working with The Body Shop and SHIFT Communications to help us promote it.

From 16 May, The Body Shop customers will be asked to Give Racism The Finger by dipping their finger in ink and making their mark on a canvas in the store. By doing so, they will be making a commitment to speak up when they witness racism. They will receive a postcard which explains the benefits of bystander action.

In addition to the in-store activities we're also going to be very active online, particularly on facebook at www.facebook.com/alltogethernow

Attached are a media release and an image of the poster (!there are posters to this also but the files are too big to send. If you would like to have the posters please contact the Priscilla at All Together Now)

or visit <http://www.alltogethernow.org.au>

Free Short Wind Asthma Resources

Asthma Foundation NSW with the support of Asthma Foundation NT are providing health organisations working with Aboriginal people throughout NSW the opportunity to order the Short Wind Asthma Resource Series. The Short Wind Series consists of asthma information booklets, asthma management tools and the short wind flip chart to support using asthma medications and devices, allowing health workers to easily present information to clients. To receive these resources please complete the attached Short Wind Resource Order Form fax back to or scan and email to: Fax: 02 99064493 Email: ldelange@asthmafoundation.org.au by **Friday 10th June**. Alternatively, to view the resources visit <http://www.asthmant.org.au/index.php?view=publications>

Straight Talk 2011

Straight Talk is a national program hosted by Oxfam from 19-22 September 2011 which will bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women together from around the country. The program commences with a four-day summit in Canberra which provides participants with the opportunity to build relationships with each other, to engage with parliamentarians, and to explore ways of working together to achieve greater justice and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Oxfam Australia is currently inviting applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for Straight Talk 2011. The Applications close Friday 3rd June 2011. Oxfam are looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who represent the strength and diversity of their communities. Participants do not need previous political experience or an understanding of Parliament. However participants should be active in making change. To apply, please complete the attached application form and email to straighttalk@oxfam.org.au or fax to 03 9347 1495.

Funding Opportunities

Care Coordination and Supplementary Services (CCSS) Second Round Funding – invitations to apply

The identification of additional sites for the second round of funding for CCSS has begun and continues, as in the first round, to be based on Aboriginal Population and need as determined through OATSIH's planning processes. GP NSW anticipates that we should be able to fund 10 sites in round two. The following are the 10 Division sites that we have invited to apply for funding in the second round: North West Slopes; New England; Hastings Macleay; Hunter Rural; Central Sydney; Hawkesbury Hills; Nepean and Blue Mountains; Shoalhaven; Illawarra and Southern.

Hepatitis Community Awareness Grants

Hepatitis NSW is offering a number of small grants \$100-\$700 to support community organisations who would like to run an activity or event on International Hepatitis Awareness Day 28 July 2011 or during Hepatitis Awareness Week, 25-31 July 2011. Some proposed activities for the small grants include; picnics, sporting events, artworks, photos workshops, displays and media events. Organisations that are interested in submitting a small grant proposal should contact Sarah George at Hepatitis NSW to discuss their idea and request an application form please phone 02 9332 1853 or email sgeorge@hep.org.au

Aboriginal Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Demonstration Grants Program

The NSW Department of Health are inviting expressions of interest for **Aboriginal Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Demonstration Grants Program**. Grants are available for organisations in NSW to trial promising activities to reduce injuries among Aboriginal people and to evaluate the success of the activities. The small grants program can pay for the implementation and evaluation of promising new or existing activities that aim to prevent injuries among Aboriginal people. The Large grants can pay for the implementation and more rigorous evaluation of "larger-scale" new or existing activities that aim to prevent injuries among Aboriginal people. For more information on the Grants Program and how to apply go to: www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/aboriginal/grants
The applications open Tuesday 10 May 2011 and will close Tuesday 28 June 2011.

Reports and Press Releases of Interest

From Little Things....

Indigenous doctors are still a rare breed but as numbers grow their impact on our health system promises to be profound. Click [here](#) to see Australian Doctor story.

The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: an overview 2011

The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: an overview 2011 is a summary publication of Indigenous health and welfare statistics prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Together with a series of articles available online from the AIHW Indigenous observatory and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, it provides a comprehensive statistical picture of Indigenous health and welfare. Topics covered in the publication include: demographic characteristics; determinants of health and welfare; health and functioning; mortality and life expectancy; health across the life stages; health care and other support services; and health and welfare expenditure.

AIHW catalogue number (**IHW42**), Hard copy available from CanPrint for **\$43.00** (1300 889 873) or download by clicking on <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418989&tab=2>

Also available from Australian institute of Health and Welfare are the Indigenous observatory papers (internet only):

- [*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child safety*](#)
- [*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability*](#)
- [*Access to health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](#)
- [*A profile of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](#)
- [*Comparing life expectancy of indigenous people in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States*](#)
- [*Contribution of chronic disease to the gap in adult mortality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians*](#)
- [*Eye health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](#)
- [*Life expectancy and mortality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](#)
- [*Older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](#)

Closing the Gap NSW State Workshop Evaluation

The extensive evaluation of the March 2011 CtG Workshop is finally complete. You can see the report at http://www.gpnsw.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/3520/110513_rep_Closing-the-Gap-Evaluation-Final.pdf

The main feedback is that

- 3 days is too long
- The most valuable sessions are the stories from other Divisions

This evaluation, together with needs assessment survey that you will see soon, will be used to develop the program for the next NSW CTG Workshop on 17 and 18 August in Sydney.

The notes from the group sessions will also be distributed soon.

Conferences and Workshops

CCSS Care Coordinators Orientation and CDSM Workshops, Sydney, 20 to 23 June 2011

GP NSW is holding an Orientation Workshop and hosting the Flinders University Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop for CCSS Care Coordinators. Both workshops will be held at the Grace Hotel, 77 York Street, Sydney. This will be a great opportunity to begin to build our Care Coordinators clinical support and professional development networks. If you have any questions about these workshops please contact Jerry Bacich on (02) 9239 2966 or 0418 677 797 or email jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au. To register for these workshops please complete the on-line registration form by clicking on the following link: <http://survey.gpnsw.com.au:8080/survey/entry.jsp?id=1306300603743>

NACCHO ATSIOW Orientation Workshop, Sydney, 21 & 22 June 2011

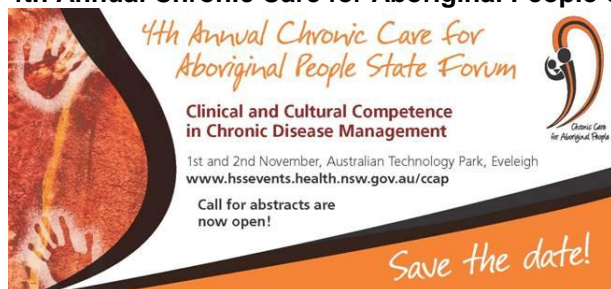
NACCHO has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to hold a national event for the emerging new workforce of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers. NACCHO extends this invitation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers and Project Officers who are mostly located in the Affiliates and State Based Organisations of the Divisions of General Practice to attend as it is recognised that both streams work closely together.

The Conference will provide a number of opportunities to workshop an array of topics relevant to your work and to hear how health services across the sectors can achieve better health outcomes through the increased workforce. Registration closes 10th June. Click here to view [registration](#) form and [travel](#) form.

GP NSW State Closing the Gap Workshop, Darling Harbour, Sydney, 17 & 18 August 2011

Program will be based on feedback from previous workshop and needs assessment survey to be undertaken with NSW Division CtG staff in June 2011. To work towards ensuring the program meets your needs please respond to the survey when it comes to you on the list serve.

4th Annual Chronic Care for Aboriginal People State Forum



The NSW Department of Health, Chronic Care for Aboriginal People (CCAP) program 4th annual State Forum theme is "Clinical and Cultural Competence in Chronic Disease Management". The forum 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. The aim of this forum will be to explore and identify innovative strategies that are both culturally and clinically appropriate and effective in improving health outcomes in Aboriginal communities. This conference is aimed at Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff working together in frontline, management and clinical positions to deliver quality health services to the Aboriginal community and showcase innovative strategies that improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people. This event will be held in Sydney on the 1st & 2nd November 2011 at Australian Technology Park Eveleigh. **The Call for abstracts is now open.** For further information please find abstract guidelines attached or visit the event website www.hssevents.health.nsw.gov.au/ccap

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Education and Training

Smoking: An Indigenous Health Challenge

View online as a live webcast - The program Smoking: An Indigenous Health Challenge assists health practitioners with the knowledge and understanding to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people quit smoking. A range of interventions to both help prevent tobacco use and assist Indigenous Australians to quit are examined.

The Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Indigenous Health will introduce the program and program participants include Dr Norman Swan - Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National; Professor Nick Zwar - General Practitioner & Director, School of Public Health and Community Medicine; Mr Sean Appoo - Regional Tobacco Coordinator, Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service, NSW; Ms Toni Mason - Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project Officer, Quit Victoria; Ms Jasmine Sarin - AH&MRC Senior Tobacco Resistance & Control Officer, NSW and Dr Rowena Ivers - General Practitioner, Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service, NSW.

The program will be available to view and listen on-demand by visiting the program's webpage or by clicking here http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=563

Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Programs Sydney University enrolment 2011

The University of Sydney's School of Public Health is currently accepting applications for its Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Programs. In 2011, the School of Public Health is offering two one-year Graduate Diploma programs, one specialising in Health Promotion and one specialising in Substance Use that aim to build clinical, public health and academic capacity of Aboriginal health professionals. Application information and program details for the Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion and for the Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health (Substance Use) can be found on <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/public-health/about/welcome.php> alternatively, for more information, please contact Jonathan Birch at jonathan.birch@sydney.edu.au or on (02) 9351 1973.

Well Women Workshop community education resource

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) has released a new resource for health organisations and individual health professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to promote breast cancer awareness through locally-run Well Women Workshops. The Well Women Workshop Community Education Resource includes advice for the Well Women Workshop organiser, presenter notes, resources to organise and run the workshop, including NBOCC's Looking after your breasts – what every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman should know DVD, and other health promotion materials. For further information or to download the resources please visit <http://www.nbocc.org.au/view-document-details/wwcem-well-women-workshop-community-education-resource>

Workshop on Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing: Looking After Ourselves

The Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing: Looking After Ourselves workshop is based on a train the trainer model and designed for service providers and Aboriginal carers who work with or want to work with carers within the Aboriginal community in promoting carer health and wellbeing. The workshop provides the opportunity for participants to become familiar with the new Carers NSW resource for Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, including the Looking After Ourselves DVD. At present there are five scheduled workshops. If there is an interest in areas outside the scheduled workshop locations further sessions may be scheduled post June 2011. For further information regarding the workshop and/or resource please find flyer attached or contact the Education and Training team at Carers NSW on (02) 92804744 or email education@carersnsw.asn.au

Work with Medicines Open Access Project Good Medicines Better Health

National Prescribing Service (NPS) Working with Medicines NSW Workshops will be held at the Aboriginal Health College, Little Bay (Sydney), for the weeks commencing June 27th & July 18th 2011. The workshops are aimed at Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons working in the health or allied health fields that would benefit from training in Quality Use of Medicine (QUM) concepts. This training may also benefit people working in non-clinical areas such as social and emotional wellbeing and support roles as the clients of these services may also be taking medicines. In some organisations, this may include drivers and reception staff who have medicine related dealings with their clients. For further information please find Q&A sheet attached. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis and there are 20 places available. Complete the attached form, indicating your preferred workshop & send to info@nps.org.au or fax 02 9211 7578 marked "Attention: Michele Adair".

Workshops for the implementation of new infection control guidelines

Workshops are being held following the establishment of guidelines outlining a nationally accepted approach to infection prevention and control, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), in collaboration with Northern Territory Health, has sponsored a series of workshops to support the implementation of the guidelines in the primary health care setting. The workshops are aimed at those working in the primary care sector who may be responsible for implementing the guidelines including clinicians, health managers and ancillary staff. The guidelines provide an evidence-base on which healthcare workers and healthcare facilities can develop detailed protocols and processes for infection prevention and control that are appropriate for their specific situation. The final workshop, which is free of charge, is coming up in Sydney on Friday 17 June at ACSQHC (1 Oxford St Darlinghurst). For more information contact Emily Parker on (02) 9126 3631 or at emily.parker@safetyandquality.gov.au

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