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## General News

### Closing the Gap Workshop – 17 and 18 August

Registrations are now open for the upcoming Closing the Gap Workshop for NSW Divisions and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services on 17 and 18 August at the Novotel, Darling Harbour.

The workshop is intended for:

- Indigenous Health Project Officers (compulsory attendance as per contract),
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers
- Care Coordinators
- Other staff working in Aboriginal Health
- Outreach Workers and other staff from AMSs are also invited to attend.

The agendas for the 2 days and an information sheet can be found at

<http://www.gpnsw.com.au/programs/aboriginal-health/meetings--and--presentations>

To register for the workshop, go to

<http://staging.gpnsw.com.au/survey/index.php?sid=64895&lang=en>

### 2011 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout

NSW Central West Division of General Practice, Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice and GP NSW are working together to have a Closing the Gap marquee at the 2011 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout in Bathurst from 30th Sept to 3rd October 2011. It is anticipated that between 15,000 and 20,000 people from across NSW will attend the 4 day event.

Visitors to the marquee will

- have access to resources that tell them about CtG and specific info about their local Division
- be offered a “pit stop” assessment by GPs and RNs on hand. Any concerning results will be recorded on a referral card back to the CtG staff at their local Division, again together with details of the Division CtG contacts in their home town.

While Divisions are under no obligation to participate, GP NSW will offer an opportunity to:

- provide feedback on any state resources developed for the event eg referral back to local Division
- Provide stock of your local CtG community brochures to be given to visitors from your area
- Look at contributing extra funds so we can look at a 2nd marquee (size 3x3m) or to take out advertising in the official program so Closing the Gap will have a greater presence
- Depending on capacity, consider providing staff to man the stand.

For more information contact Wendy at [wendycampbell@gpnsw.com.au](mailto:wendycampbell@gpnsw.com.au)

### CtG Wallet Cards

Riverina Division of General Practice and Primary Health Care have developed Closing the Gap wallet cards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. GP NSW has printed wallet cards for each Division to distribute to practices, which you will receive at the upcoming workshop. More information will be provided then.

### **Preston Campbell Self Identification Posters**

The clever people at New England, North West Slopes, and Barwon Divisions have developed an identification poster featuring Preston Campbell as a follow on from the NBN TV ads.

GP NSW has had stock for each Division printed and will distribute these at the workshop in August. Please click [here](#) for a preview. There is room at the bottom of the poster for your Division to put a sticker of your logo and contact details.

### **Aboriginal Family and Children Photo Catalogue**

General Practice NSW, in association with Central Sydney General Practice Network, has commissioned professional photographs for an Aboriginal-specific resource to promote the importance of childhood immunisation and health checks to the Aboriginal community.

As a result, GP NSW has a library of high-quality photographs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, mums and bubs and family groups. The families have given permission for the NSW Divisions Network to use these images for resources to help promote the benefits of healthy living.

GP NSW has organised the photographs into a book for easy viewing. To access a copy of the book, contact the Aboriginal Health Team at GP NSW on 9239 2900. The book will be posted to you with a photograph order form and a reply paid envelope. On return of both the book and order form, the photos will be delivered to your Division via email or CD. GP NSW requests that Divisions supply an electronic and hardcopy version of the resource that they develop using the photos.

If you elect to use any of the images for a resource or publication, the family will be contacted to inform them of your use of their image.

### **Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program – Progress update**

In NSW we have 8.8 FTE Care Coordinators working in nine first round funding sites, with a further three Care Coordinators to come on board in three other first round funding sites. These services have started seeing patients with 44 Aboriginal people referred to the program and 49 episodes of care delivered. The biggest group of people referred are men over 70 years, though there has been an even number of men and women seen by the Care Coordinators. There have been 35 services arranged with Allied Health Professionals and 2 services arranged with Specialist services.

The second round funding for CCSS program is underway with 10 NSW Divisions submitting funding applications. It is expected that these sites will be offered contracts in early September 2011. For more information about the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program contract Sarah Bradfield [sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au](mailto:sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au) or Jerry Bacich [jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au](mailto:jerrybacich@gpnsw.com.au)

### **Sharing Stories to Improve Indigenous Health Care**

A new report, 'People I Can Call On', which will give healthcare providers an insight into the challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with chronic illness, was launched by the Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon.

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

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ws-ws033.htm>

### **National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day**

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day is celebrated on 4 August each year. The 2011 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day theme is "From small to big: growing stronger every day". Each year SNAICC produces and sends out resources to p you celebrate NAICD. All those who support children, including early childhood services, teachers, educators, foster carers, welfare workers, policy makers and government are encouraged to take a break from their normal routine and organise activities involving children and families. Such local events celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and reinforce how important it is for their wellbeing to be connected to culture.

[Read more about how to register your event and see examples of past events here.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### GSK Adult Immunisation Grants

Specific funding has also become available for **immunisation with GlaxoSmithKline Adult Immunisation Grants Program 2011**. Launching its program for healthcare professionals working in immunisation to help support the uptake of adult immunisation in local communities, four \$20,000 grants are being offered for innovative immunisation programs in four categories, one category being 'Indigenous Health'. If you have developed an innovative adult immunisation project and require extra support, consider applying for a GSK Adult Immunisation grant. The closing date for proposals is 5:30pm AEST on 12 September 2011. For more information, to view video case studies from past winners or to submit a proposal, go to: [www.gsk.com.au/adultimmunisationgrants](http://www.gsk.com.au/adultimmunisationgrants).

### Health Community Initiative Phase 3 Funding – Now Open

The Australian Government is providing \$71.8 million over four years from 2009-10 under the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) to support Local Government Areas (LGAs) in delivering effective community-based physical activity and healthy eating programs, as well as developing a range of local policies that support healthy lifestyle behaviours. **Closing date: 2pm AEST on 19 August 2011.**

The LGA Grants will:

- support a Healthy Communities Coordinator within LGAs to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Initiative within target populations; AND any combination of:
- subsidise the costs to individuals of participating in healthy eating, physical activity or healthy lifestyle programs; AND/OR
- purchase or run community based healthy lifestyle programs; AND/OR
- purchase or subsidise training for community members to run community based healthy lifestyle programs where this does not contradict professional or accreditation requirements of specific programs.

Under Phase 3 of the HCI, funding of \$566,042 (GST exclusive) per grant is available for up to 47 LGAs across Australia for a period of up to 21 months (October 2011 – June 2013).

For assistance in preparing an application please read:

- the [HCI LGA Grants Phase 3 Program Guidelines \(PDF 540 KB\)](#); and
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION FROM [www.health.gov.au/tenders](http://www.health.gov.au/tenders)

Questions regarding the Healthy Communities Initiative can be addressed to [COAGhealthycommunities@health.gov.au](mailto:COAGhealthycommunities@health.gov.au) or phone (02) 6289 4381.

## Reports and Press Releases of Interest

### NSW Health flu vaccination reminder

NSW Health is urging the public to get vaccinated now against the flu with some hospitals reporting an increase in respiratory illness-related presentations.

NSW Health reminds parents and families that health advice and information is available via the free Health Direct Australia service, staffed by registered nurses 24-hours a day on 1800 022 222. Please see attached Media release word document for further information.

### International Centre for Eye care Education (ICEE) education resource-

ICEE has recently been funded for another round of production and distribution of their eye health educational resource kits - *I See for Culture*. These image-based resources have been designed to allow health workers to better explain and provide education sessions for Aboriginal patients about eye and vision disorders. The kit contains eye health promotion posters, two flip-charts, a model eye and simulator glasses. For further information about the kits, and to download PDF versions of the flip-charts and posters, please visit the ICEE website:

[http://www.icee.org/resources/i\\_see\\_for\\_culture/index.asp](http://www.icee.org/resources/i_see_for_culture/index.asp). Alternatively, if your organisation is interested in one of these kits, please email your interest, along with your organisation's contact details to Amy Nicholls [a.nicholls@icee.org](mailto:a.nicholls@icee.org)

## Healthy Start for School Initiative

From 1 July 2011, if parents / carers receive an income support payment at any time during the financial year in which their child turns four, the child is required to undergo a relevant health check to ensure they are healthy, fit and ready to start school. This is a requirement to receiving the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement. **The Aboriginal Health Check item 715 is included as one of the relevant health checks**, along with items 701, 703, 705 and 707. A letter will be sent to all GPs later this month. Further information can also be found at:

<http://www.familyassist.gov.au/payments/healthy-start-school.php> and  
<http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/publications/fpr080.htm>

## Conferences, Workshops and Events

### CCSS Care CDSM Workshop, Sydney, 15 to 16 August 2011

GP NSW has rescheduled the Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop for CCSS Care Coordinators to be facilitated by Flinders University. The workshops will be held at the Grace Hotel, 77 York Street, Sydney. This workshop is only for Care Coordinators from the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program. If you have any questions about the workshop please contact Sarah Bradfield on (02) 9239 2966 or email [sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au](mailto:sarahbradfield@gpnsw.com.au). To register for this workshops please complete the on-line registration form by clicking on the following link <http://staging.gpnsw.com.au/survey/index.php?sid=76712&lang=en>

### Good Medicines Better Health Workshops

NPS are pleased to advise that Work With Medicines Open Access training will be offered again with the Aboriginal Health College at Little Bay in Sydney. Participants must attend all five days. Workshops are scheduled for:

- Week beginning **8 August, 2011**
- Week beginning **22 August, 2011**

NPS will fund training costs (trainers, course materials, venue, lunch, morning tea. The employer is responsible for travel, accommodation, salary+/- backfill. For further information, please contact Jo McMahon, Co-ordinator by email [jmcmahon@nps.org.au](mailto:jmcmahon@nps.org.au) or on mobile 0438-435-552.

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