

Welcome to the **NCOSS Health News Update** a compilation of health related news, publications, training and events in NSW and Australia for the social and community services sector in NSW.

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NCOSS Health Policy & Advocacy

NCOSS submission on Local Health Networks in NSW

NSW Health

NCOSS made a submission to NSW Health on the Discussion Paper on Implementing the National Health Reform in NSW. NCOSS welcomes the expansion of Local Hospital Networks to the more comprehensive Local Health Networks (LHNs) in recognition of the broader range of services that comprise the health system. However, we have concerns about the lack of detail in the proposal, particularly around governance structures, LHN structure, and roles and responsibilities.

Download: <http://www.ncoss.org.au/resources/100903-Submission-to-NSWH-on-LHN-2-Sept-10.pdf>

Advocacy and engagement in national health reform agenda

Sector briefing

NCOSS had arranged a briefing for the Health NGO Sector on the national health reforms by Department of Health and Ageing and NSW Health. Unfortunately we had to post-pone this event while the Commonwealth Government was in caretaker mode following the election. We will look to reschedule the briefing after the COAG meeting in December which will review the scope of primary health care services for transfer to the Commonwealth.

Presentation on health reforms

NCOSS has given presentations about the national health reforms to a number of organisations and forums over the last month – a copy of the presentation is available

<http://www.ncoss.org.au/mail/Presentation-National-health-reforms-August2010.ppt>

AHHA Policy Think Tank

NCOSS attended a Policy Think Tank on community and primary health by the Australian Health and Hospital Association on 1 September 2010. A key recommendation was the establishment of local primary care organisations which would be funded according to the needs of their populations, with additional loadings for any special needs. There was significant resistance to the use of the term “Medicare Locals”. A link to the presentations at the Think Tank is below.

Divisions of General Practice

At the Think Tank, the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) confirmed that the Divisions have an exclusive EOI to tender for the first round of Medicare Locals to commence operation in 2011. AGPN is currently preparing the framework for a Consumer and Community Engagement Strategy and a Performance and Monitoring Framework for Primary Health Care Organisations.

General Practice NSW also recently held a briefing for key stakeholders about the Divisions in NSW and their potential role in managing primary health care organisations.

NCOSS will be looking to build the relationship between the NGO Sector and the Divisions to support effective linkages and partnerships to deliver more coordinated and comprehensive care based on a social model of health.

Download: <http://www.ncoss.org.au/mail/AHHA-ALL-PRESENTATION-on-PHC-think-tank->

[1sept10.pdf](#)

NSW Oral Health Alliance calls MPs to action

In the last edition we reported that the NSW Oral Health Alliance has written to all Members of Parliament challenging them to demonstrate that their commitment to the health and well-being of Australians goes beyond hospital and headlines. The Alliance has received over 50 responses from State and Commonwealth MP's, and a summary is available on the NCOSS website.

Download: <http://www.ncoss.org.au/resources/100810-FOR-WEB-Combined-MP-Responses.pdf>

General health news

New federal ministerial team for Health

September 2010

Following the 2010 federal election, the Ministers with health portfolio responsibilities are:

Minister for Health and Ageing: Nicola Roxon

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing: Mark Butler

Minister for Indigenous Health: Warren Snowdon

Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing: Catherine King

The dedicated portfolio of Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery has been cut, but may fall within the new Regional Australia and Regional Development portfolio.

<http://www.startthechange.com.au/healthreform>

Health NGO Review

The review into the NSW Health NGO Program has now been completed. NSW Health tabled the final *NGO Review Recommendations Report* at the last meeting of the NGO Review Reference Committee on 26 July 2010. The recommended reforms particularly relate to cutting red tape and ensuring the delivery of a dynamic and evidenced based NGO Program.

NSW Health has stated that the NGO sector will continue to be engaged by NSW Health throughout the process of implementing the recommendations and on the current health reform process. It is anticipated that the first implementation meeting will be held in October.

A copy of the Recommendations Report has been sent to all Health-funded NGOs and is on the NSW Health website.

Download: NSW Health [NGO Review Recommendations Report](#)

Download: [NCOSS submission to NSW Health NGO Review](#)

Health NGOs in the new health reform model

NSW Health has stated that it is working to ensure stability for the sector in the transition to the national reform model. This involves:

- Auditing existing NGO contracts in the AHSs;
- Establishing a legal mechanism to ensure the on-going validity and continuity of those Agreements once the AHS's are abolished;
- Notional transfer of contracts from the AHS to Department of Health when the LHN's commence operation in 2011; and
- Establishing a Central NGO Unit in Primary Health and Community Partnerships Branch to oversight the NGO Program governance and administration.

NSW Health advised that there will be no substantive changes for Health NGOs during the transition process apart from those associated with normal performance monitoring processes.

EOI for Chairs of the LHN Governing Councils

September 2010

NSW Health released an EOI for the Chairperson of NSW Local Health Network (LHN) Governing Councils. Applications closed 17 September.

Discussion Paper on Implementing the National Health Reform in NSW

August 2010

In early August NSW Health released a Discussion Paper on the proposed configuration of Local Health Networks and broad governance structures. Submissions closed on 1 September 2010.

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/Initiatives/healthreform/lhn_disc_paper_pdf.asp

Health Consumers NSW

Health consumers have agreed to establish Health Consumers NSW

A meeting was held in July to initiate Health Consumers NSW which will be a state level, independent voice for people using health services, so they can fully participate in shaping health in this state.

NSW, the only major state without this kind of consumer "voice", will be now able to contribute to the Health Reform process. Health Consumers NSW (HCNSW) will join other Australian states' peak consumer organisations to influence health policy and service provision.

"We will play a vital role in shaping a responsive health system - public and private – in our state" said Sally Crossing AM, after the meeting.

NSW Health Minister Carmel Tebbutt funded the first meeting, indicating her in principle support of this real opportunity for NSW health consumers to be heard.

Representatives from 20 health related organisations which work with consumers, met in Sydney over two meetings and agreed today to the establishment of this very important organisation

Consultations & Submissions

NSW Community Engagement Policy

NSW Health

The draft Community Engagement Policy sets out how NSW Health meets its commitment to engage with consumers, community groups and clinicians to identify where and how health services can be improved at a state level and locally.

Submissions are due by COB on **29 October 2010**.

Feedback and comments can be sent to Chris Williams, Senior Policy Officer, Community & Government Relations Branch at CWILL@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Should you have any queries contact Simone Proft on 9391 9353.

<http://www.ncoss.org.au/mail/Draft-Community-Engagement-Policy-sept10.pdf>

NSW Multicultural Health Policy

NSW Health

Primary Health and Community Partnerships Branch has redrafted a new multicultural health policy titled the *NSW Multicultural Health Policy and Implementation Plan: Health for a Culturally Diverse Community*.

The draft Policy has been prepared on the basis of information collected from a review of the current academic literature, best practice evidence and broad consultation with key stakeholders (including a consultation workshop many of you attended in October 2009). It incorporates the new Multicultural Policies and Services Program which public sector agencies are required to report on under the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*.

Please forward your responses to Ms Joanne Young, A/Associate Director, Primary Health and Community Partnerships Branch by close of business **15 October 2010**.

Ms Young can be contacted by telephone on (02) 9391 9026 and by email on jyoung@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

<http://www.ncoss.org.au/mail/MHPSP-consultation-draft-v3-1.pdf>

Consultation on the Patient Safety in Primary Health Care Discussion Paper

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is undertaking some exciting new work on patient safety in primary health care. As a preliminary step the Commission has developed a discussion paper and is currently conducting an open consultation process to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved in improving patient safety in primary health care in Australia. The consultation on the Patient Safety in Primary Health Care Discussion Paper opened on 13 August 2010. This paper and information on how to provide a submission is now available on the Commissions website.

Closing date: Oct 15 2010

See: <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au>

Reforms to the HACCC Program: Consultations for HACCC service providers

Aged Care Services

Sue Findlay, HACCC Transition Manager at ACS will be conducting a series of consultations on the COAG Reforms to the HACCC Program during October and November 2010.

Metro Locations: *all begin at 9:50am and conclude at 12:30pm*

GYMEA Thurs 21 Oct	PENRITH Mon 1 Nov
PARRAMATTA Wed 3 Nov	SYDNEY Thurs 4 Nov
CAMPBELLTOWN Tues 16 Nov	

More details & Registration Form: <http://ncoss.org.au/mail/coag-REGISTRATION-FORMS-metro.pdf>

NON-Metro Locations: *all (except Armidale) begin 10:30am & conclude with lunch at 1:10pm*

CENTRAL COAST Tues 12 Oct	MAITLAND Wed 13 Oct
WAGGA WAGGA Thurs 14 Oct	GERROA Mon 25 Oct
QUEANBEYAN Tues 26 Oct	BROKEN HILL Thurs 28 Oct
PORT MACQUARIE Wed 10 Nov	ARMIDALE Thurs 11 Nov (noon to 3pm including lunch)
ALSTONVILLE Fri 12 Nov	DUBBO Tues 23 Nov
ORANGE Wed 24 Nov	

More details & Registration Form: <http://ncoss.org.au/mail/coag-REGISTRATION-FORMS-non-metro.pdf> (NB: flyer times incorrect for Armidale - see corrections above)

Bookings must be made prior to the consultations.

More info: contact Sue Findlay on email SueF@agedservices.asn.au or 8754 0400

Feedback on potential boundaries for Medicare Locals

Department of Health and Ageing

Individuals, organisations and government bodies are invited to make comments or submissions on potential boundaries for Medicare Locals, including but not limited to:

- Principles for determining boundaries or catchment areas for Medicare Locals, including potential differences between metropolitan, rural and remote areas.
- Suggestions about the optimum number of Medicare Locals in a particular state, territory or region, including potential boundaries in

each area.

- How boundaries might be defined in cross border areas.
- Potential barriers or difficulties that will need to be addressed in establishing new boundaries and catchment areas for Medicare Locals.

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) has commissioned its own independent modelling work (by Carla Cranny & Associates) on potential boundaries which you may wish to consider in making your submission:

- [Framework for development of Primary Health Care Organisations in Australia - parts 1&2 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Framework for development of Primary Health Care Organisations in Australia - part 3 \(PDF\)](#)

Feedback can be provided using an online electronic submission template or written submissions can be emailed to medicarelocal@health.gov.au or by mail.

The closing date for comments or submissions is **30 September 2010**

<http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/AGPNSubmission>

Policies and strategies

NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy 2010-2015

NSW Health

The NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy 2010-2015 sets out the NSW Government's strategic directions and intended outcomes for suicide prevention in NSW over the next five years, and aligns with the national suicide prevention framework: *Living Is For Everyone*.

The Strategy was developed to provide the basis for a coordinated whole of government approach to suicide prevention in NSW, which promotes a whole of community framework for collaboration and partnerships with academics and researchers, non government organisations, service providers, people bereaved by suicide, and families, friends and individuals in the provision of suicide prevention initiatives.

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2010/pdf/suicide_ps.pdf

NSW DEMENTIA SERVICES FRAMEWORK

NSW Government

The NSW Government launched a five-year initiative to enhance the way services are provided to people with dementia in NSW. The NSW Dementia Services Framework 2010-2015 will help address the expected greater than threefold increase in the number of people with dementia in coming decades.

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/2010/pdf/20100922_00.pdf

Resources

Issues in oral health for low income and disadvantaged people in NSW – An advocacy guide

NSW Oral Health Alliance

This kit has been developed by the NSW Oral Health Alliance for community and welfare organisations in NSW. It aims to raise awareness of oral health issues for low income and disadvantaged people, and encourage advocacy with politicians, media and in the wider community in the lead up to the NSW State Election 2011.

Download: <http://www.ncoss.org.au/resources/issues-in-oral-health-kit.pdf>

Revised National Mental Health Standards

Australian Health Ministers' Council

The Australian Health Ministers' Council (AHMC) has endorsed the revised National Mental Health Standards to guide quality care provision across Australia's mental health services. The Chair of AHMC, Minister Hill reported that the original National Standards were released in 1996 and the focus then was primarily on raising the quality of our acute mental health services. The mental health service sector has since changed significantly with a large proportion of services now provided in the community, an expansion of non-government and private services and an increased focus on primary mental health care.

<http://www.australiantransplantauthority.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mental-pubs-n-servst10>

National Cultural Competency Tool (NCCT) for Mental Health Services

Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA)

Australia's first ever National Cultural Competency Standards today, boosting recovery prospects for Australians from non-English speaking backgrounds living with a mental illness.

The Standards form part of the new National Cultural Competency Tool (NCCT) for Mental Health Services. Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA) developed the tool in partnership with the Government of Western Australia's Mental Health Commission. As well as containing a set of National Cultural Competency Standards, the NCCT resource pack includes a range of practical aids and strategies, such as a self-assessment checklist, to help agencies work in a multicultural setting.

Website: www.mmha.org.au

Standard Healthier Lives Fact Sheets for People with Intellectual Disabilities

NSW Council on Intellectual Disabilities (NSWCID)

NSWCID has released 3 new fact sheets on:

- End of life care
- Mental Health
- Challenging behaviour and health

Check them out: www.nswcid.org.au

Working with Refugees - A Manual for Caseworkers and Volunteers

Rural Clinical School - Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

The manual addresses language barriers, managing client expectations, cultural differences, living skills and burnout and many other issues. It includes a manual, CD and flash cards.

For a copy contact: the Rural Clinical School 6933 5111.

Publications & Research

Assessing Cost-Effectiveness (ACE) in Prevention report

National Health and Medical Research Council

[ACE Prevention](#) is a large, 5-year study that was funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The overall aim of this project was to provide a comprehensive analysis of the comparative cost-effectiveness of preventive intervention options addressing the non-communicable disease burden in Australia, with a specific focus on Indigenous Australians. ACE Prevention is the most comprehensive evaluation of health prevention measures ever conducted world-wide, involving input from 130 top health experts. The research team assessed 123 illness prevention measures to identify those which will prevent the most illness and premature deaths and those that are best value

for money. For comparison purposes 27 treatment interventions were included.

See: http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/100907ACEPrevention_Sept2010_FINAL.pdf

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INDICATORS FOR NSW

NSW Parliamentary Library Service

This paper contains a selection of statistical indicators in the fields of health, education and community in New South Wales. It aims to provide a snapshot of the trends in each of these areas. The focus is on the overall situation in New South Wales and how it has changed in recent years. Where relevant, comparisons are made to the situation in the other Australian States and Territories. For some of the indicators, comparisons are made between the various regions within New South Wales

[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/publications.nsf/key/HealthEducationCommunityIndicatorsNSW%282010%29/\\$File/Health_Ed_Comm+2010.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/publications.nsf/key/HealthEducationCommunityIndicatorsNSW%282010%29/$File/Health_Ed_Comm+2010.pdf)

2009 NSW Inmate Health Survey: Key Findings Report

Justice Health

This important research provides updated prevalence data for a range of demographic, physical health, mental health and risk behaviours for the NSW prison population. It retains many of the questions asked in the 1996 and 2001 Inmate Health Surveys (IHS) and reports on trends over time. The Inmate Health Surveys are referenced in international literature as being the most comprehensive descriptions of prisoner health

Available electronically on the Justice Health internet site:

[\(www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au/publications/\)](http://www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au/publications/) under the Research sub-heading. If you would like a hard copy of this report please contact Ms Galia Guirguis on chrcj@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au or (02) 8372 3000.

Improving the Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Mainstream General Practice

Lowitja Institute and the Australian National University

The Lowitja Institute and the Australian National University have launched a new publication with recommendations on how GPs can help Close the Gap. Better identification of Indigenous patients in general practices would improve their access to Medicare benefits such as health checks that could help 'Close the Gap', yet many GPs don't consider ethnicity to be relevant to quality of care, according to a study from The Australian National University.

See: <http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/new-publication-improving-identification-gp-services>

Practice Incentives Program Audit Report

Australian National Audit Office

A review of the Department of Health and Ageing's Practice Incentives Program (PIP) conducted by the Australian National Audit Office is now available for public consumption. The objective of the audit was to assess DoHA's effectiveness: in undertaking PIP program planning, program monitoring and review; and with Medicare Australia, in ensuring PIP program delivery to general practices and their medical practitioners. In undertaking the audit, the ANAO considered the 12 incentives that comprised the PIP up to August 2009. The three most recently introduced incentives at the time of audit fieldwork, namely, Domestic Violence, GP Aged Care Access and eHealth incentives, were examined in greater detail and formed case studies to support audit analysis. The ANAO also sought views on the program administration from industry, including from general practices directly through an online survey. The report raises some critical findings of the complex, hard to manage PIP system.

See: <http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2010-2011.cfm>

IPART HOSPITAL COSTS AND OUTCOMES STUDY (NSW)

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has issued its report on costs and outcomes in 5 NSW hospitals. Over the last year, IPART has been undertaking a study for the NSW Department of Health to produce a body of evidence on costs, clinical practice and outcomes. This evidence can be used by medical and surgical experts to compare what they do and how they do it and the consequences of different ways of providing care for costs and outcomes for patients. The report NSW Health costs and outcomes study by IPART for selected NSW hospitals is available on IPART's website

<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>

Health services: Patient experiences in Australia, 2009

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

09 August, 2010 | This release provides national data on access and barriers to a range of health care services including general practitioners, medical specialists and other health professionals, imaging and pathology, after hours care and hospital/emergency departments.

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/4DE1EBF2E29AAC71CA2577730022B837/\\$File/4839055001_2009.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/4DE1EBF2E29AAC71CA2577730022B837/$File/4839055001_2009.pdf)

Australia's health 2010 conference presentations

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

The AIHW has made presentations from the Australia's health 2010 conference held in June 2010 available for download.

See: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/ah10/presentations.cfm>

Identifying gaps in primary care services: reaching the 'unreached'

Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHC RIS)

In an equitable system, the health needs of communities are matched by the services provided. This *RESEARCH ROUNDup* investigates the concept of equity in health, endeavours to describe those who are most likely to be 'unreached' by primary health care services, and how they may be identified. The *ROUNDup* outlines a number of factors that contribute to health-seeking behaviours, such as personal and social constraints, and the availability, organisation and perceived effectiveness of health care services. Small area analyses using multiple data sources that examine the relationships between many variables may assist in identifying the 'unreached'. You can access this and other issues of *RESEARCH ROUNDup* by visiting the PHC RIS website.

See: <http://www.phcris.org.au/publications/researchroundup/>

Preparing nurses for primary health care futures: how well do Australian nursing courses perform?

Keleher H, Parker R, Francis K. (2010). *Aust J Prim Health*. 16(3):211-6.

Health reform is increasingly targeted towards strengthening and expanding primary health systems as care is shifted from hospitals to communities. The renewed emphasis on prevention and health promotion is intended to curb the tide of chronic disease and sustain effective chronic disease management, as well as address health inequities and increase affordable access to services. Given the scope of nurses' practice, the success of Australia's health system reforms are dependent on a nursing workforce that is appropriately educated and prepared for practice in community settings. This article reports on the results of an Australian national audit of all undergraduate nursing curricula to examine the extent of professional socialisation and educational preparation of nurses for primary health care. The results of the audit are compared with Australian nursing standards associated with competency in primary health care. Some interesting and important findings about the need to

improve nursing training ensues. [abstract precis by PHC RIS].

See: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/index.cfm?paper=PY09064>

Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS

Parliament by the Secretary of State for Health -UK

“.....The NHS White Paper, Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS, sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of the NHS.

The vision builds on the core values and principles of the NHS - a comprehensive service, available to all, free at the point of use, based on need, not ability to pay

Available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353

Assessing equity in systematic reviews: realising the recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Tugwell P et al. (2010). *BMJ*. 341:c4739 (Published 13 September 2010)

A group from the Cochrane Collaboration, Campbell Collaboration, and the World Health Organization Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network has developed guidance on assessing health equity effects in systematic reviews of healthcare interventions. This guidance is presented in this paper and is relevant to primary research as greater focus on health equity in systematic reviews may improve their relevance for both clinical practice and public policy making.

See: <http://www.bmj.com/content/341/bmj.c4739.full?paper=toc>

Renewing Primary Care: Lessons Learned From The Spanish Health Care System

Borkan J. (2010). Health Affairs. 29:1432-1441.

From 1978 on, Spain rapidly expanded and strengthened its primary health care system, offering a lesson in how to improve health outcomes in a cost-effective manner. The nation moved to a tax-based system of universal access for the entire population and, at the local level, instituted primary care teams coordinating prevention, health promotion, treatment, and community care. Gains included increases in life expectancy and reductions in infant mortality, with outcomes superior to those in the United States. In 2007 Spain spent \$2,671 per person, or 8.5 percent of its gross domestic product on health care, versus 16 percent in the United States. Despite concerns familiar to Americans—about future shortages of primary care physicians and relatively low status and pay for these physicians—the principles underlying the Spanish reforms offer lessons for the United States. [Abstract derived from article].

See: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/29/8/1432>

A renewed focus on primary health care: revitalize or reframe?

Bhatia M, Rifkin S. (2010). *Global Health*. 6(1), 13..

The year 2008 celebrated 30 years of Primary Health Care (PHC) policy emerging from the Alma Ata Declaration with publication of two key reports, the World Health Report 2008 and the Report of the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Both reports reaffirmed the relevance of PHC in terms of its vision and values in today's world. However, important challenges in terms of defining PHC, equity and empowerment need to be addressed. This article takes the form of a commentary reviewing developments in the last 30 years and discusses the future of this policy. Three challenges are put forward for discussion (i) the challenge of moving away from a narrow technical bio-medical paradigm of health to a broader social determinants approach and the need to differentiate primary care from primary health care; (ii) The challenge of tackling the equity implications of the market oriented reforms and ensuring that the role of the State in the provision of welfare services is not further weakened; and (iii) the challenge of finding ways to develop local community commitments especially in terms of empowerment. These challenges need to be addressed if PHC is to remain

relevant in today's context. The paper concludes that it is not sufficient to revitalize PHC of the Alma Ata Declaration but it must be reframed in light of the above discussion. [Abstract derived from PHCRIS].

See: <http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/content/6/1/13>

Social Relationships Are Key to Health, and to Health Policy

The PLoS Medicine Editors. (2010). PLoS Med. 7(8).

Evidence from observational studies has documented the association between social relationships and beneficial effects on health outcomes, such as mortality. However, the precise size of this effect, and of which aspects that form part of social relationships are most strongly linked with positive outcomes, remain unclear. A systematic review and meta-analysis of the literature sheds further light on these questions. The systematic review, published in *PLoS Medicine* in July 2010, retrieved data from a large body of literature—148 studies involving 308,849 participants. The researchers examined studies carried out in both community populations and patient samples, and examined only mortality. The researchers reported that stronger social relationships were associated with a 50% increased chance of survival over the course of the studies, on average. See the article for further unique insights. [Abstract precis by PHC RIS].

See: <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000334>

Climate change and the possible health effects on older Australians

Saniotis A, Irvine R. (2010). *Australian Journal of Primary Health. 16(3) 217–220*

This article discusses two issues in relation to climate change and older Australians: first, pharmacology and autoregulation; and second, mental health among older Australians. Climate change research forecasts that Australia will experience accelerated warming due to anthropogenic activities. Australia's aging society will face special challenges that demand current attention and makes this article of high relevance. [Abstract precis by PHC RIS].

See: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/261/paper/PY10025.htm>

Determinants and outcomes of patient-centered care

Bertakis KD, Azari R. (2010). *Patient Educ Couns.*

This study measures patient-centered practice style by family physicians and general internists including the measures: visit-specific satisfaction and healthcare resource utilisation. Patient-centered care was observed more often with family physician caring for healthier, more educated patients, and was associated with lower charges. These findings represent potential cost-savings in health care as reduced annual medical care charges are an important outcome of patient-centered medical visits. [Abstract precis by PHC RIS].

See: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20801601>

Evaluating policy and service interventions: framework to guide selection and interpretation of study end points

Lilford RJ. (2010). *BMJ. 341:c4413 doi: 10.1136/bmj.c4413.*

The effect of many cost effective policy and service interventions cannot be detected at the level of the patient. This new framework could help improve the design (especially choice of primary end point) and interpretation of evaluative studies.

See: <http://www.bmj.com/content/341/bmj.c4413.full?paper=oc>

SUICIDE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION - BREAKING THE SILENCE

Suicide Prevention Consortium

Breaking the Silence has been prepared by a consortium of NGO's and Universities to draw together

local and international evidence to highlight that suicide is preventable. Despite the recent commitment afforded to it by government and public health systems - the suicide prevention sectors funding needs to continuously grow to reinforce the foundations which are currently being paved. This report collates the research that provides evidence of the effectiveness of certain suicide prevention measures and posits that our whole community should be doing much more to address suicide in Australia

http://suicidepreventionaust.org/_notitia/FileHandler.ashx?id=ECA4EAA9670C9ADC506CD7BA08E02228EDB551C9

Report confirms major rural inequities

National Rural Health Alliance

After years of neglect and underinvestment in rural infrastructure and services, both major political parties should be congratulated for what is effectively bipartisan support for a special regional package. The extent of rural-major city inequity can be judged by a [summary report produced by the National Rural Health Alliance](#). It shows that on just one single measure, access to Medicare, there is an annual deficit of about \$1 billion – and growing – between major cities and rural, regional and remote areas. The report also provides detail of the rural-city inequities in life expectancy, access to health professionals, health status and risk factors, the effectiveness of health promotion, cancer survival rates, education and educational outcomes, community infrastructure, communications and the cost of accessing essential services.

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/ftp/NRHA-measuring-the-inequity.pdf>

Implementing health financing reform

World Health Organization WHO 2010, on behalf of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

“.....the conceptual approach used for this study is guided by the assumption that lessons from experiences relating to implementation of health financing reforms can be derived by using
(1) a common set of explicit policy objectives as assessment criteria;
(2) a function-based framework as a basis for describing health financing systems and reforms; and
(3) identification and analysis of key contextual factors with implications for particular reform options and their effects.

This standardized approach to assessment and description will enable lessons to be generated, particularly from those countries that have carried out “deep” reforms of their financing systems. Such lessons will be of interest not just to the countries in transition, but for countries in other parts of the world as well.

Available online PDF [425p.] at: <http://bit.ly/bEFpqk>

Funding Opportunities and EOIs

EOIs for ACI Citizens Council

NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI)

The ACI is seeking EOIs for its Citizens Council. The ACI Citizens Council is being established as a subcommittee to the ACI Board. The Council will provide the ACI Board with expert advice on community engagement, research and communication and, where appropriate assist in communication of ACI initiatives to the NSW community. Applications are due **1 October**.

Contact Rachna Garg to receive an application pack. Rachna can be contacted on tel (02) 9887 5728 or email: rgarg@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au

See: www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/

REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH \$2.9 MILLION IN GRANTS (NSW)

NSW Government

The NSW Government has launched the 2010/11 \$2.9 million Domestic and Family Violence Grants program. The grants support non-government organisations in delivering projects to prevent or minimise the impact of domestic and family violence. Applications are now open for non-government organisations to apply for grants of up to \$100,000

For more information on how to apply visit www.women.nsw.gov.au

Call for papers for a special issue on Community Health Workers in Primary Health Care.

Care The Journal of Ambulatory Care Management

The Journal of Ambulatory Care Management is calling for papers for a special issue on Community Health Workers in Primary Health Care. The Journal is encouraging a good representation of different country experiences. For more information, contact James Macinko <james.macinko@nyu.edu>, E. Lee Rosenthal <elrosenthal@utep.edu> or Norbert Goldfield nigoldfield@mmm.com.

Closing date: Oct 01 2010

See: <http://journals.lww.com/ambulatorycaremanagement/pages/default.aspx>

Linkage Projects Round 2

Australian Research Council (ARC)

Applications for ARC Linkage projects (round 2) for funding commencing July 2011 have opened. Linkage Projects supports research and development projects which are collaborative between higher education researchers and other parts of the national innovation system, which are undertaken to acquire new knowledge, and which involve risk or innovation. Proposals for funding under Linkage Projects must involve a Partner Organisation from outside the higher education sector. The Partner Organisation must make a significant contribution in cash and/or in kind, to the project that is equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding. Under the Linkage Projects scheme, the ARC provides opportunities for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to engage in industry-oriented research training and enables postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research opportunities in collaboration with industry. Complete information is available on the website, including criteria, instructions, forms.

Closing date: Nov 17 2010

See: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR \$2 MILLION YOUTH FUNDING

NSW Government

The *Better Futures* enhancement announced in the 2010-11 Budget provides additional funding for eligible community groups in areas of high need. Groups can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to:

- Upgrade facilities, equipment and resources; and/or
- Develop or expand programs that encourage the engagement and participation of young people.

It is anticipated that projects funded under the *Better Futures* strategy will involve young people in all aspects of the project – from the planning to the delivery and evaluation of the project.

Who can apply?

Community organisations and local councils can apply for one-off grants, in areas of high need, that support local community programs that engage young people in activities that help build social, communication and leadership skills.

Applications will **close at 5pm, 24 September 2010**.

To apply, visit grants.communities.nsw.gov.au

2011 Community Development Grants Program

NSW Community Relations Commission

The Community Relations Commission announces the opening of the first round of the 2011 Community Development Grants Program. ([Sponsorship](#)).

[Applications](#) are invited from not-for-profit incorporated organisations to receive up to \$5,000 for annual festivals or major cultural events scheduled no earlier than 1 December 2010. **Closing date for submissions is 10 September 2010.**

Funding under the sponsorship program is provided three times a year. The second round will open

again in November 2010.

You can obtain details of these programs and an application form from the Commission's website www.crc.nsw.gov.au/grants

Funding for community groups to save water and power

NSW Government's Climate Change Fund

Funding is now available under the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund for community and other not-for-profit organisations to undertake simple and low-cost water and energy upgrades in their facilities. Under Community Savers, **up to \$40,000** (excluding GST) is available for not-for-profit organisations such as community groups, rural organisations and local clubs to make their facilities more energy and/or water efficient. Eligible projects include but are not limited to, installing rainwater tanks, water efficient fixtures, energy efficient lighting and climate-friendly hot water systems.

Applications for Community Savers must be received by **5pm on Monday 25 October 2010**.

Visit <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfpfp.htm> to download the *Guide for Applicants* or to view currently funded Community Saver projects.

Free help for low income earners to save up to 20% off their power use

NSW Government

The NSW Government's new [Home Power Savings Program](http://www.savepower.nsw.gov.au) offers most Pensioner Concession, Health Care and Veterans' Affairs Card holders a **FREE**:

- Visit by an energy expert
- Power Savings Kit
- Personal Action Plan.

Eligible households can **call 1300 662 416 now** to book a free home power assessment.

Visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au or contact Janice Bagot, A/Senior Community Relations Officer, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, **Environment Line 1300 662 416** ccf@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Conferences and Events

Health Issues & Humanitarian Emergencies (*NEW*)

27-30 September 2010 OR 1-4 November 2010

Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney

A 4-day Short Course designed to give participants an insight into the range of public health aspects of humanitarian emergencies in developing country situations.

For more information: enquiries@health.usyd.edu.au.

The 2nd Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium - *Winds of Change: New Perspectives on Rural and Remote Mental Health*

29-30 September 2010

Novotel Brighton le Sands in Sydney

The conference will explore new perspectives within the P4 parameters by way of individual conference papers, keynote presentations, and workshops

<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/rmh10/>

EFFECTIVE WAYS OF ENGAGING MEN (*NEW*)

1 October 2010

Forum One, 1st Floor, Hyde Park Inn, 271 Elizabeth Street Sydney

EFFECTIVE WAYS OF ENGAGING MEN is Australia's leading **men's health promotion training**

program that focuses on how we can more effectively communicate health and wellbeing messages to men and what agencies and organisations need to know about making their services, programs and resources more men friendly to achieve the best possible outcomes for men and boys.

Read all about it with dates for Sydney and Gosford at

<http://menshealthservices.com.au/service2.html>

More info: greg@menshealthservices.com.au www.menshealthservices.com.au

CPHCE Annual Forum: Health System Reform: Beyond Hopes and Dreams (*NEW*)

Wednesday October 20th

University of NSW, the John Niland Scientia Building

Annual Forum of the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity. The program will include:

- The CPHCE year in review
- Ian Webster Health for All Oration given by Prof John McCallum
- Forums: what research tells us about reforms in Child health (Elizabeth Harris), Chronic disease (Nicholas Zwar) and Healthy Public Policy (Marilyn Wise).
- Panel discussions focusing on primary health care reform with Di O'Halloran, Rene Pennock Peter Sainsbury, and Christine Walker.

RSVP by **October 6th** using online RSVP form:

<https://www.surveys.unsw.edu.au/survey/155003/144f/>

Abortion Rights National Day of Action (*NEW*)

Sat 9 October 2010

Sydney Town Hall

Abortion Rights National Day of Action at 12 noon. Abortion remains in the criminal code in both NSW and QLD. However common law rulings have established "lawful" grounds for abortion when a woman's physical or mental health is at risk. We are calling for all abortion laws to be repealed from the *NSW Crimes Act*. This is very relevant for people in NSW as the *QLD Criminal Code 1899* Sections

224-226 (which relate to abortion) and the *NSW Crimes Act 1900*, Sections 82-84 (also relating to abortion), are almost identical.

Many before us have fought for the right to choose abortion. It's time for us to stand up and defend these rights. These rights are now under attack by those who would have us go back to the dark ages of backyard abortions!

Contact WAAC: 0407 665 857 (Marg) contact_waac@yahoo.com.au or see www.waac.org.au

Physical and Mental Health Promotion for People with an Intellectual Disability (*NEW*)

Monday October 13th 2010

CDS at Ryde

A workshop for families, service providers and other professionals.

This will be presented by Dr Seeta Durvasula and Ms Rachel Dickson

Contact Margaret Carrick: mcarrick@med.usyd.edu.au

Anti-Poverty Week 2011 (*NEW*)

17 – 23 October 2010

<http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>

Australasian Sexual Health Conference

18-20 October 2010

Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney

This year's sexual health conference has for the first time a dedicated symposium on the sexual health of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and people from CALD backgrounds. Confirmed speakers are Jill Benson, Sandy Gifford at La Trobe and Henrike Korner from the Australian Centre for HIV Social Research at UNSW.

<http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au/>.

NCOSS Election Campaign Mid-term Launch of “Are We Fair Yet?” (*NEW*)

22 October 2010

NSW Parliament House

The Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS) will undertake a mid-term re-launch of its election campaign during Anti-Poverty Week on 22 October at NSW Parliament House. The campaign will be re-branded from “Vote 1 Fairness in NSW” to “Are we fair yet?”.

Further details will be available on the website www.ncoss.org.au shortly

The National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care - Society, Regulators and Health Providers: a clash of expectations

24–27 October 2010

Canberra ACT

<http://www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/forumsqhc2010/>

2010 Health Promotion Symposium - Challenges and Successes in Achieving Equity-Focused Outcomes

11-12 November 2010

Sydney

NSW Health Promotion Networks invite your participation in the Symposium. The focus will be to explore, promote and discuss the issues emanating from the theme of Challenges and Successes in Achieving Equity-Focused Outcomes. A principle function of the Symposium is to build the capacity of health promotion practitioners of NSW by profiling the outcomes of state funded programs.

More information: http://www.conferenceco.com.au/HP_Symposium/index.asp

Breath Easy with Smoking Cessation Training (*NEW*)

23-24 November 2010

Mental Health Coordinating Council, Sydney

Smoking Cessation for Community Mental Health

The course is open to any workers in the Community Mental Health sector to provide the skills and knowledge to educate and support mental health consumers around nicotine dependence. The course will also provide information on strategies that are relevant to the sector to assist workers and organisations to address smoking.

Cost: MHCC Member: \$300.00 Non Member: \$400.00

www.mhcc.org.au

Flagship Course on Equity and Health Systems (*NEW*)

29th November – 3rd December, 2010 (5 days)

Tagaytay, Philippines,

About the course: Offered, for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region, by the World Bank Institute in collaboration with the Asia Network for Capacity Building in Health Systems Strengthening, The Institute for Health Policy, Equitap Network, and the Department of Health and Development Agency of the Philippines.

This course is targeted to senior to mid-level policy-makers, managers and experts involved in health sectors in the Asia-Pacific region. It will draw on participants' own country experiences through presentations and exercises. The course content is built around the WBI Flagship framework, and aims to help participants think about why equity in health is important, to identify methods and tools for assessing equity, and policy options to achieve more equitable, pro-poor outcomes.

Deadline for applications: Oct 15, 2010

How to apply: Email the fully completed attached application form to Ms. Ruwani Wickramasinghe at: hec@equitap.org or fax +94 11 2314040 (in Sri Lanka)

More information : <http://bit.ly/aKza6Z>

Improving human resources for health (HRH) through responsible governance (*NEW*)

31 January – 4 February 2011,

Amsterdam The Netherlands and Cuernavaca Mexico

The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT, Amsterdam), the National Institute of Public Health in Cuernavaca, Mexico and the World Health Organization.

Human resources for health (HRH) are a vital component of any health system and are central to attaining the health-related Millennium Development Goals. In many countries, a shortage of qualified and motivated personnel, and unequal distribution between areas and types of facilities, hampers the availability and quality of health services. Poor HR management, including financial constraints, can lead to insufficient numbers of health care providers being trained, inadequate planning and deployment of health care providers, and economic migration.

To address the factors hindering appropriate policy development and implementation, and to mitigate the HRH crisis, the relationship between HRH and governance requires strengthening at all levels.

The aim of the short course is to enable participants to apply the concept of responsible governance to HRH issues and to develop approaches improving the formulation and implementation of national and regional HRH policies and plans

Application deadline: November 30, 2010

Website: <http://bit.ly/atOOUo> - Brochure: <http://bit.ly/a64J1B>

11th International Health Impact Assessment HIA conference (*NEW*)

14-15 April 2011.

Granada, Spain

First announcement for the [11th International HIA conference](#) in *Crisis Times, Healthier Ways*

More information on [the conference website](#).

Do you have any comments, feedback or items for inclusion in the NCOSS Health News Update?

Please contact Solange Frost, Senior Policy Officer (Health), NCOSS on 9211 2599 (ext 130) or Solange@ncoss.org.au with any suggestions for future editions.

To be removed from this mailing list:

If you would prefer not to receive the *NCOSS Health News Update*, please reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line to Solange@ncoss.org.au

About the Council of Social Service NSW

NCOSS is the peak body for the non-government human services sector in NSW. NCOSS provides independent and informed policy development, advice and review and plays a key coordination and leadership role for the non government social and community services sector in New South Wales. Through current membership forums, NCOSS represents more than 7,000 community organisations and over 100,000 consumers and individuals.