



fortnightly update

Friday 18 December 2009



GPA will be closed from 24 December 2009 to 3 January 2010 (inclusive)



Local doctor wins regional award

Congratulations to Dr Judy Braga who has been announced as equal winner of the Gippsland Registrar of the Year award presented by Gippsland Education and Training for General Practice (getGP). Dr Braga is part of the team at the Foster Medical Centre. Read the article from *The Mirror* on our [website](#).

GP Anaesthetists' Locum Scheme

The new General Practitioner Anaesthetists' Locum Scheme (GPALS) is underway. Offering generous subsidies, GPALS is designed to specifically support GP anaesthetists throughout rural and remote Australia. GPALS is an Australian Government Rural Health Workforce initiative managed by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists. Applications are currently being sought from all interested hosts in Rural Remote Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) 2-5 (GP anaesthetist/practice/hospital) and locums (both GP and specialist anaesthetists). For more information, please contact Dianne on 02 9327 4022, email gpals@fed.asa.org.au or visit www.asa.org.au

Australian Practice Nurse Association conference

Online registration for APNA's Golden Opportunities Conference is now available. Earlybird registration expires 31 January 2010. Visit www.apna.asn.au/conference for more information.

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

The Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) is a collaborative joint venture of the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and AGPN, which work closely with USC in facilitating its delivery. The Graduate Certificate is designed specifically for Practice Nurses to develop knowledge and skills to assist them to practice competently within the challenging and constantly evolving general practice environment.

In the first phase of the program, students complete three courses (36 units) emphasising practice within the general practice environment via on-line distance education delivered by USC adjunct staff. The second phase, the elective course, is delivered via on-line distance education by USC. AGPN and the USC invite Registered Nurses to enrol in the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) in Semester 1, 2010. Further information including enrolment forms can be found at <http://generalpracticenursing.com.au/graduate-certificate-in-nursing-general-practice>

Preventing heat related illness

Heat-related illness can range from mild conditions such as a rash or cramps to very serious conditions such as heat stroke, which can kill. Heat may worsen the condition of someone who already has a medical condition such as heart disease. Prevention is the best way to manage heat-related illness. For fact sheets that may be printed on how to prevent heat related illness (which are also available in some community languages) please access the Department of Health website at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmt/heat_stress.htm

Changes to MBS item numbers

MBS item number changes will be implemented May 2010. These are particularly useful for Palliative patients, with longer assessments, home visits, etc. A fact sheet with details of the changes are located on our [website](#) under Publications/Resources for Practices - MBS review GP Item Numbers for 1 May 2010.

Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care 2010

The Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research (CPCER) at St Vincent's has developed a University of Melbourne accredited graduate award program in palliative care. In addition, some components of the award course will be offered as individual non-award short courses.

The award program is targeted at health professionals (all disciplines) who are required to provide palliative care in their work setting. Scholarships of up to \$3,000 each for approved postgraduate courses (including Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care) are available via application to Palliative Care Victoria (see www.pallcarevic.asn.au or phone 03 9662 9644 for more information).

Contact Danielle Boardman e: palliativecare@mccp.unimelb.edu.au
t: 9810 3250 www.mccp.unimelb.edu.au/palliativecare

FOR YOUR DIARY
Palliative Care Conference 2010
Century Inn Traralgon
Saturday May 29th 2010

Quality around the World conference in Health Care

QIP's 5th International Conference in Health Care - Quality Around the World will be held 20-22 May 2010 at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

The comprehensive program is highly relevant to Divisions of General Practice teams. Experts from international markets will lead delegates on a journey to explore the best in quality, safety and disease management programs from around the world. An opportunity to hear first hand about key issues which will impact all general practices, including the Australian National Safety and Quality Framework, the future for integrated primary health care and the new National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards. Earlybird registrations available until 28/2/2010. Visit www.qip.com.au/conference for more information.

Mental Health

Judy Tiziani

Well, we have a very busy six months ahead of us in Mental Health next year, with these as some of the events organised through the Division.

- ☆ Mental Health First Aid – Adult – Jan 30th and Feb 6th 2010 - Leongatha
- ☆ Feb 2nd - meeting for the National Perinatal Initiative - Inverloch
- ☆ Feb 10th and 17th – two session Young Minds workshop – essential training for GPs who wish to continue claiming Item No. 2710.
- ☆ Youth Mental Health First Aid – Feb 19th and 26th Inverloch
- ☆ Feb 24th - Mental Health Professionals Network CPD – Post Natal Depression – Leongatha
- ☆ March – date to be confirmed – CPD – 'Mind the Gap'- workshop on the physical and mental comorbidities for Veterans.
- ☆ March 19th and 26th – Adult Mental Health First Aid – Wonthaggi
- ☆ March 24th – Mental Health Professionals CPD – Adolescence and Conduct Disorders – Inverloch
- ☆ April 1st – Annual Refugee Conference – 'Pathways to Participation'. This will have a GP and Practice staff component in the evening. Silverwaters, San Remo
- ☆ April 28th - Mental Health Professionals CPD – Anxiety in the Elderly – Yarram
- ☆ May 12th - Mental Health Professionals CPD – Eating Disorders – Foster
- ☆ May 26th - Mental Health Professionals CPD – Physical and Mental Disability – Wonthaggi
- ☆ May 28th and June 4th – Adult Mental Health First Aid – Leongatha
- ☆ June 10th - Mental Health Professionals CPD – Chronic Schizophrenia – Cowes.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and participation in the past 12 months.

I look forward to continuing Mental Health learning with you all next year.

I hope that you and your families have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year.



Practical Paediatrics Program for GPs 2010

Missed out in 2009? 2010 is the last year of the CPD triennium and if you want to be kept up-to-date on the schedule, **send a blank email** to: join-practicalpaediatricsrch@lyris.wch.org.au

Topics for 2010 include paediatric mental health, neurology, gastro, allergy and dermatology. The series includes a mix of evening lectures, Saturday mornings and optional clinic placements (ALM). You can participate in all or one only. For more information see RCH GP Access (Kids Connect): www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/edu.cfm?doc_id=8613

Well proud: A guide to gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender and intersex inclusive practice for health and human services

This guide has been developed by the Victorian Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) Health and Wellbeing to assist the Department of Health and Human Services and funded agencies improve their service provisions to GLBTI people.

Well Proud draws on national and international research on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI people and on guidelines for GLBTI-sensitive practice and service delivery that have been developed here and overseas. The guide provides evidence-based recommendations aimed at supporting services to be more responsive to issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex conditions. It includes additional recommendations for specific health care settings, and for subgroups within the GLBTI population that have specific health and wellbeing needs.

For a copy of the guide please visit www.health.vic.gov.au/glbtimeac/downloads/wellproud.pdf

Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Regulations to come into effect from 1 January 2010

On 1 January 2010, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (PHWA)* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* will come into effect. Under the PHWA and the new Regulations there are changes to requirements regarding conditions required to be notified, including:

- a requirement to notify the Department of Health of two new conditions - Chikungunya virus infection and blood lead greater than 10 µg/dL.
- removal of Giardiasis from the list of notifiable conditions so that you will no longer need to notify the Department about this condition.
- a change in the notification of Hepatitis A from a Group B to Group A condition, requiring immediate notification by telephone followed by written notification within five days.

The Department of Health is producing new notification forms incorporating the changes outlined above. These forms will be distributed in late January 2010. The forms will be available online from 1 January 2010 at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas> Notifications can also be made online using a secure eForm at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas/notifying/howto>



Wishing you a happy festive season and a safe new year from the staff at GPA South Gippsland.