

Reminder: 2012 school year brings benefits for immunisation

The 2012 school year marks the first year in which children need to be *fully immunised* for parents to receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement which is worth \$726 per child. This new incentive comes into effect on July 1 2012. To read the full media release click [here](#).

LIFE! Case finding funding – Only 5 months left!

For practices that have recently signed the Life! Case Finding funding agreement with DA-Vic, this is a reminder that practices now have **only five months** remaining to take advantage of the funding for referrals – **agreement expires 30 June 2012**.

Remember - Practices can refer direct through DA-Vic central referrals on 137475, or if they have an existing relationship with facilitators can refer direct through to them. Life! information and referral resources are available from the Division of General Practice or can be ordered from DA-Vic direct.

For further information contact:
Pam Odgers, CWGDoGP on 5126 2899 or
Michelle Jones, DA-Vic on 9667 1773.

Poly Implant Prothese Breast Implant Issues

The RACGP has been informed by the Department of Health and Ageing's Chief Medical Officer, of new updates regarding the current Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) breast implant issues.

GPs and patients who would like further information on this issue, should phone the Breast Implant Information Line on Ph: 1800 217 257 or contact their surgeon for clinical advice. A frequently asked questions (FAQs) page is also available on the Department of Health and Ageing's Therapeutic Goods Administration site by visiting this [site](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing Listing

An updated Mental Health and Wellbeing listing for GPs is now available on the Division website. Click [here](#) to view the listing.

PITSTOP at Farmworld – We need you!

22 & 23 MARCH 2012 - LARDNER PARK - WARRAGUL

'Pitstop' is a focussed men's health information and screening event, and is a great way to engage with a sector of the community that do not typically present for regular health checks with their GP.

Health professionals that have participated in the past will know that it is a well organised and rewarding experience.

The next 'Pitstop' at Farmworld (Lardner Park, Warragul) is just around the corner, and the organisers are seeking expressions of interest from GPs and nurses to be involved.

You can opt to assist for a half day, full day or both days, depending on your availability.

Payment is offered and if you are interested or would like further information, please contact Pam Odgers at the Division on 5126 2899 or podgers@cwgdogp.com.au

Aboriginal Health Workshop – Speakers Wanted

General Practice Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation are currently putting together a workshop on 8 and 9 March 2012 at Albert Park. They are looking for possible speakers that can talk about their experience in working with members of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in their mainstream general practice.

You will be supplied with a brief on the areas needed to be covered in a short presentation and asked to participate in a panel session.

If you are interested, please contact:
Bruce Henderson GPV Program Consultant – Closing the Gap
Phone: 9341 5239
Email: b.henderson@gpv.org.au

Scholarships Available

Improving Care for Older People

Latrobe Regional Hospital is offering **Improving Care for Older People (ICOP) Scholarships** in the Gippsland region to build the capacity of health services to better meet the needs of older persons.

Activities may include attending conferences, undertaking education and training or other relevant activities if it:

- has a person-centred care philosophy;
- has clear linkages to service improvement for older persons; and demonstrates building of a particular skill base.

The scholarships may be provided to facilitate professional development activities in:

- continuing education which address' principles for the care of older people in Victorian Health Services;
- workforce capacity building to better respond to the needs of older people in hospital settings; and
- quality improvement activities, including evaluation.

Applicants must be health professionals (medical, nursing, allied health or administration) currently working for a health service in the Gippsland region.

For further information regarding this scholarship
Contact: Sarah Calvi, ICOP Project Worker
Email: scalvi@lrh.com.au
Phone: 5173 8542

Please see this [flyer](#) and [guidelines](#) for more information.

Education and Training

Take Away Chronic Disease Self Management

RACGP QI & CPD 40 Category 1 points are allocated to this workshop. Activity # 746392

GPA South Gippsland and South Coast PCP is presenting "Take Away" Chronic Disease Self Management" for Health Professionals.

Find out how you can help patients with chronic or complex conditions, manage their illness better and help them change unhealthy behaviours and habits that are keeping them ill.

Date: Saturday 24 March

Time: 9.30am to 4pm

Venue: 11 Williams Street Inverloch

Contact: Paul Greenhalgh on 03 5674 0900.



Education and Training

Type 1 Out of Town coming to Bairnsdale Presented by Diabetes Australia – Vic

This is the first Type 1 Out of Town in the 2012 series for people living in and around the Bairnsdale area. Expert speakers will cover insulin pump therapy, management strategies for parents of children with type 1 and carbohydrate counting.

When: Saturday 25 February

Venue: Bairnsdale Sporting and Convention Centre

Time: Registration from 10 am.

Bookings essential: 1300 136 588

Best care for older people— what is the latest?

Australian Association of Gerontology (Victorian Division) and Monash University (Gippsland) are presenting a Regional Clinical Update Forum

Contact: Linda Emmanuel Ph: 03 8387 2305 or
Email: l.emmanuel@nari.unimelb.edu.au

Date: Friday 16 March, 2012

Time: 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Venue: Latrobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon

Please see this [flyer](#) for more information.

SAEFVIC and pneumococcal vaccines in children and adults – what's new?

Presented by General Practice Victoria for interested GPs, Practice Nurses and Local Government Immunisers.

Guest speaker Dr Nigel Crawford, Paediatrician, Royal Children's hospital, will talk about SAEFVIC (Surveillance of Adverse Events following Vaccination In the Community) and present on the epidemiology of pneumococcal disease, the introduction of pneumococcal vaccines and their efficacy.

Date: Tuesday 28 February 2012

Venue: The Point, Aquatic Drive, Albert Park 3206

Time: Registration 6:30pm for 7pm start

Please see this [flyer](#) for more information.

For further information or to register your interest in attending any education events, please contact Paula on 5126 2899 or email ppearce@cwgdogp.com.au



headspace CWG celebrates our Young Citizen of the Year

This year's Latrobe City Young Citizen of the Year has been awarded to Ellen McDonald, a 21 year old woman from Moe. Over the last two years Ellen has made a significant contribution to the young people of the Latrobe Valley community through her involvement as a volunteer with headspace Central West Gippsland and the 'HYPE' FreeZa committee. Ellen currently attends GippsTAFE and is continuing to pursue her goal of becoming a vet nurse. In addition, Ellen supports her younger sister who has resided in her care since the age of 17.

headspace Mythbusters

headspace Mythbusters are prepared by the Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health. The series aims to unveil common myths which are contrary to research evidence about mental health and substance abuse problems affecting young people. Experts on the topic have reviewed the summary before publication, including members of the **headspace** Youth National Reference Group (hY NRG).

Myth: "Eating disorders aren't serious - they're just diets gone wrong..."

Eating disorders are among the most serious and misunderstood of all mental disorders. A number of myths and stereotypes exist about eating disorders that can be potentially damaging to young people affected by them and to their families.

Mythbuster: Eating Disorders aims to dispel these myths and present an evidence-based understanding of how eating disorders can affect young people and how their needs can be met.

For more information, see link below

<http://www.headspace.org.au/media/101049/headspace-mythbuster-eatingdisorders.pdf>

Rock and Water

headspace CWG is facilitating our second program of the Rock and Water program at Newborough East Primary in terms 1 and 2 in partnership with Latrobe Valley Community Mental Health Services. This program will engage a group of Grade 5 and 6 boys in 13 weekly activity groups that focus on improving communication skills, increasing confidence in young people, strategies to deal with bullying and managing anger.

Rock and Water is a physical-social teaching program originally designed for boys and focused on enhancing emotional regulation skills and has a martial arts basis.



The program leads from simple self defence, boundary and communication exercises to a strong notion of self-confidence. The program offers a framework of exercises and ideas about students and manhood to assist boys to become aware of purpose and motivation in their life.

Topics include: intuition, body language, mental strength, empathic feeling, positive feeling, positive thinking and positive visualising. Discussion topics include bullying, sexual harrasment, homophobia, life goals, desires and following an inner compass.

More information about Rock and Water can be found at :

www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/fac/workshops/rock-and-water/about.html

“headspace Central West Gippsland is an initiative of headspace: The National Youth Mental Health Foundation. The Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Promoting Better Mental Health Program.”