

February 2012

Media Release: 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.

While the countdown is on for four year-olds eager to start preschool, Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice Chair Dr Julie Thompson is reminding parents that immunisations need to be added to the 'to do list' at the beginning of the school year.

"Parents should check with their GP or immunisation provider to ensure their child is fully immunised according to the four year old schedule and also check that the information has been sent to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register or ACIR," Dr Thompson said.

"The Family Assistance Office will get this information from ACIR so they can pay the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement.

The full media release can be found on the Immunisation page of the Division website.

February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Each year in February Ovarian Cancer Australia runs a national Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month campaign to highlight the symptoms of ovarian cancer and to raise funds for their program.

Wear a Teal Ribbon on Teal Ribbon Day Wednesday 29th February.

There are plenty of ways you can get involved! Contact Ovarian Cancer Australia on 1300 660 334 or see their website www.ovariancancer.net.au for more information.

Welcome Ryan to Practice Support Team

Ryan Wong is a trained Occupational Therapist . He is currently completing a Masters in Public Health.

His passion is around increasing the primary health care capacity to reduce inequity and improve health outcomes.

As the Project Officer Access program, he designs, implements and evaluates interventions for breaking down barriers for Aboriginal access to mainstream General Practices in collaboration with the Indigenous Outreach Worker (Tanisha Smitherson).

Ryan believes that by closing the health gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population, we create a fairer and more inclusive society which in turn will benefit everyone.

If you share the same values, Ryan would love to "have a yarn" with you ...



'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

Education & Training Events

Advance Care Planning Including presentation on Elder Abuse

Date: Tuesday 8 May 2012

Time: 6.30pm Light Dinner and Registration
7.00pm – 9.30pm

Location: CWG Division of General Practice, Training Room, 16 Kirk Street, Moe

Advance Care Planning is a series of steps that can be taken to help a patient make **plans** for their medical **care** in **advance**. The aim of advance care planning is to keep the patient's "voice" heard so that their family and health professionals know what is important to them, even when they are too sick to speak on their own behalf.

Maggie Goss is an experienced Facilitator in the 'Respecting Patient Choices' advance care planning program and she will further explain this important area of practice for palliative patients, as well as the aged.

Would you know how to identify Elder Abuse?

Linda Rowley, Principal Consultant of Image Life by Design will be conducting a short presentation on the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy, funded by the Department of Health.

The strategy aims to enhance the capacity of local agencies to respond appropriately to suspected cases of elder abuse through the development of local policies and protocols.

Please contact Paula on ppearce@cwgdogp.com.au or 51262899 for further information or to register

Managing Diabetes in Mental Illness - A Team Approach

Presentations, case presentation and panel discussion format, involving STV Director of Endocrinology, STV Head of Diabetes, STV Psychiatrist, GP, Practice Nurse & Diabetes Educators.

Date: Wednesday 7th March 2012

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: "Brenan Hall", St Vincent's Public Hospital, Aikenhead Wing, 27 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy Vic 3065

RSVP: Wednesday 29th February 2012

All details & registration details: www.svhm.org.au/gp

Education & Training Events

SAEFVIC and Pneumococcal Vaccines in Children and Adults—What's new?

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

To register visit www.gpv.org.au and follow the links to the events page. For more information please contact Michelle Wills at m.wills@gpv.org.au 03 9341 5226 or Kate Russo k.russo@gpv.org.au 03 9341 5265.

Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care

The 'Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care' is a formal award of the University of Melbourne.

The training is targeted at health professionals who are required to provide palliative care in their work setting. A delivery format of two four-day subjects offered intensively throughout the year has been established to accommodate regional health professionals.

Course Objectives

The course will explore the core concepts related to palliative care, including symptom management, communication skills, and evidence based practice, non malignant palliative illnesses, psychosocial issues and the role of the family caregiver.

Specialist Certificate Entry Requirements

An undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in medicine, nursing, an allied health profession, science or social science which is recognised by the University as evidence of adequate preparation for the course plus documented evidence of at least one year's full-time relevant professional work experience in a medical, scientific or allied health environment.

Scholarships

The Department of Health are offering scholarships of up to \$3000 for people undertaking approved post-graduate palliative care courses. For further information please see Palliative Care Victoria website: www.pallcarevic.asn.au or phone 03 9662 9644.

*Got something to share with other Nurses in the region? Promotion of an event or achievement?
We would love to hear from you. Email reception@cwgdogp.com.au*