

AGPN e- News

Delivering local health solutions through general practice



August 2007

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Immunisation Accolade

AGPN Deputy CEO Liesel Wett recently visited the North West Slopes Division in Tamworth to officially award the divisions highest national immunisation coverage rate of 94.1 per cent. The launch took place at local pre-school and was attended by local politicians, state and federal health department representatives and local general practice staff. The division received excellent media coverage on TV, radio and in the press. AGPN on behalf of the Network congratulate them on their achievement.

GPs in the NT

Both AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs and Board Member Dr Emil Djakic have now returned from their two weeks in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities. Dr Hobbs and Dr Djakic were both publicly thanked by the communities of Mutitjulu and Hermannsberg respectively. In conjunction with NACCHO, AGPN and 12 other medical organisations have written to the DoHA and Tony Abbott outlining a long-term strategy to deal with health issues in the NT.

AGPN is asking the Network to advise their members that GPs, practice managers and practice nurses interested in heading to the NT are encouraged to either contact AGPN, or lodge a nomination direct to the Department of Health and Ageing's NT Emergency Coordination Centre (NTECC). Experience in Aboriginal health is advantageous. For more details and the nomination form please visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-oatsih-nt>
AGPN are happy to be the nominating organisation

Every Family

AGPN, Lifeline Australia and the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland have submitted a proposal titled **Every Family** to the Federal Government. **Every Family** is an evidence-based program that promotes positive parenting techniques in an effort to improve the health and social outcomes for children. The \$63 million funding over four years would allow Network members to rollout the program and support general practice to more effectively engage with parents and families in their local communities. AGPN CEO Kate Carnell will soon email all Network executive officers with full details of the proposal and opportunities it presents for the Network.

RHIMO Network met in Canberra

AGPN hosted the RHIMO Network in Canberra recently to plan the implementation of the Information Management Maturity Framework for the Network. A communiqué updating the Network on the framework will be released shortly.

Chronic disease management: using clinical data to improve health outcomes

Workshop series:

- Melbourne – Thursday 16 August
- Brisbane – Monday 20 August
- Sydney – Monday 27 August
- Perth – Tuesday 28 August

These workshops will feature international guest speaker Ms Sheila Teasdale, MMedSci FBCS, Strategic Director of PRIMIS+, University of Nottingham, UK.

Sheila Teasdale provides education, training, support, data extraction, analysis and feedback services to primary care in the UK. Sheila is also Editor of Informatics in Primary Care, and an Editorial Adviser to the British Medical Journal. She is a Fellow of the British Computer Society, and a Board member of the NHS Faculty of Health Informatics and the Data Accreditation Board.

For further information on these events please contact the RHIMO in your region or Jan McRobie at AGPN on 02 6228 0800 or jmcrobie@agpn.com.au

Communications Strategy

The Network has responded exceptionally well to the AGPN offer to gain access to press and broadcast media monitoring. Passwords and information on the service have now been emailed to those who requested access. The site allows all members to view the Networks media coverage across the country and will no doubt encourage the sharing of media resources. This will also be the case of the newly formed Communications Network. If you are interested in having access to the site or being involved in the Communications Network please contact Kathryn at kconroy@agpn.com.au

Forum Update- Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart 15-18 November 2007

The complete Forum program is now up on the website

http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/client_images/105489.pdf AGPN are encouraging all delegates attending or considering to attend the Forum to register and book accommodation as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

'Can Do'

The AGPN pilot phase of 'Can Do' has now been completed. 61 divisions took part in the very successful pilot program. AGPN are confident the 'Can Do' for Veterans program which has now started will also prove beneficial. 18 divisions all with high numbers of veterans will participate. Two additional training modules 'Can Do' for Young People and 'Can Do' for Families and Carers are also in development and will be piloted later this year. We will keep you informed on progress with these programs. For more information please contact Meriel Schultz at mschultz@agpn.com.au

Collaboratives Tender

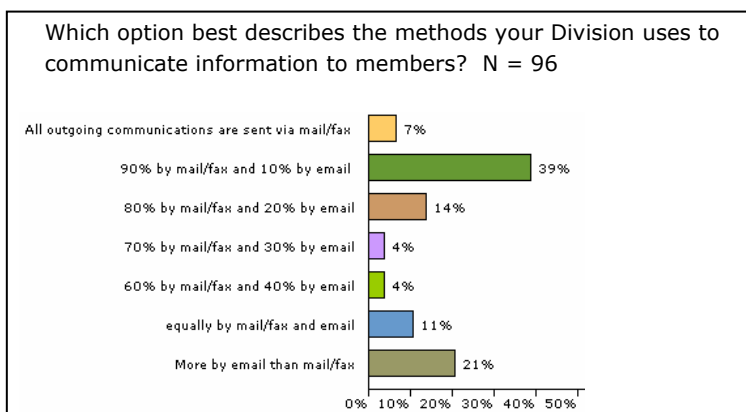
The AGPN team in conjunction with SBOs worked tirelessly on the Collaboratives Tender in conjunction with Flinders University. Our tender was lodged on Monday and the Department has indicated that a Funding Agreement is expected to be signed with the successful tenderer in October 2007. Transition arrangements will commence in the last quarter of 2007 with a view to the next phase of the extended Program commencing in mid 2008 with the first raft of learning workshops. AGPN will advise you of the outcome as soon as the successful tender is announced.

Divisions Digest 2007

The 2007 Divisions Digest is the network's second annual online survey allowing divisions and SBOs to report and benchmark their individual key operating measurements. It will allow confidential comparisons to be made on a range of operational measures, such as remuneration, board structures, sources of funding, cost structures and communication methods. Meaningful comparisons can be made against similar organisations on a state and national level.

It will be running live to all Division CEOs in late August and be presented at the Forum in November.

Some examples of 2006 measures that will be tracked in 2007:



In 2007, we will be measuring a new area in communication - how rapidly Divisions can communicate with members in emergency situations such as an acute health outbreak.

For further information please contact Norm Humphery at nhumphery@agpn.com.au.

Vitamin B12 Deficiency

We have received a number of queries from the network requesting support for the endorsement of the misdiagnosis of Vitamin B12 deficiency. AGPN suggests that divisions consider this request "very carefully" before responding. AGPN has NOT in anyway supported this campaign.

For more information please email lwett@agpn.com.au

PIP IMIT incentive payments: assistance available

The new PIP IMIT requirements introduced last year are an important part of the broader e-Health agenda that is based on improving safety and quality, leading to improved health outcomes. AGPN has been informed that uptake of the revised PIP IMIT payments was slower than expected in the first part of 2007, particularly in some rural and remote practices. Although uptake figures have recently increased, if you or your practices require any assistance in relation to the revised incentives, please contact your regional eHealth Support Officer or AGPN's Project Manager, eHealth Support Program at: pgiacometti@agpn.com.au

National Promotional Material – taking orders now

The Mental Health Council has provided the Network with an opportunity to download free Mental Health Day (10 October) posters and fact sheets from their website www.mhca.org.au. As the Network monthly media packs for October will link into Mental Health Day it could be a good opportunity to promote the day. If you do require hard-copies please email simon.tatz@mhca.org.au. As the MHCA is a not-for-profit large orders may incur postage and handling fees.

National Child Protection Week '07 2-8 September 2007. This year's theme is: challenging individuals to see if their street is 'child friendly'. To arrange some free posters for you or your members please email peter@napcan.org.au. AGPN will be sending out a press release to support this week. If you would like to receive a template media release for your local media please email Kathryn at kconroy@agpn.com.au

For Practices

Allied Health Service audit

A number of letters sent to GPs regarding the Medicare audit of Allied Health items contained an error regarding the nature of the material requested. As a result of this error Medicare Australia will not be proceeding with the audit at this stage. AGPN will keep you informed of the new timeframes currently being arranged for this exercise. For more information please phone Melanie McCutcheon on 02 6124 7435.

DVA Simplifies health care scheme

Effective from 13 August 2007 new measures to reduce the administrative burden on health care providers treating veterans will be introduced. Health care providers require only a Medicare provider number to participate in the DVA's health care scheme. In addition from 13 August 2007, the changes will also allow veterans to access exercise physiology services. This follows the inclusion of exercise physiologists in the Medicare arrangements. For more detail please contact onlineclaiming@medicareaustralia.gov.au

New online education for GPs in the management of prostate cancer

The Cancer Council Queensland, in partnership with The Australian Prostate Cancer Collaboration, Andrology Australia and ThinkGP, has recently developed and launched the first online GP education activity around prostate cancer risk management. The activity earns RACGP and ACRRM Quality Assurance and Continuing Professional Development points and comprises part of a RACGP QA&CPD ALM. For more information or to register for the education modules visit: www.thinkgp.com.au

Should you wish to contact the editor please email Kathryn Conroy at kconroy@agpn.com.au
