Consumer Bites Issue 6, April 2012-04-12

Consumer Representatives

Opportunities for Consumer Engagement

On 21 June 2012, the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) will release a report entitled Australia's health 2012. To coincide with the release of the report, AIHW is hosting a national conference in Canberra to present the latest findings and statistics on the health of the Australian population. HCCA is offering sponsorship for two consumers to attend this conference. The successful applicants must have a proven record of reporting back through HCCA mechanisms and a keen interest in/experience of the issues under discussion. If you are interested in attending, please nominate here.

Therapeutic Goods Administration Committee Vacancy

The TGA is seeking expressions of interest from experts for various positions on two new statutory advisory committees:

- The Advisory Committee on Biologicals
- The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medical Devices

These committees provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister for Health and to the TGA, in relation to their respective areas of expertise. People wishing to apply for this committee must apply directly to the TGA and not as a representative of HCCA, as they are individual based committees. For more information about these positions click here. Enquiries by email can be made to committee.vacancies@tga.gov.au. Application must be received by 20 April 2012.

Items of interest

Medicines list iPhone App (from Quality and Safety Commission Medication Safety Update March 2012)

Patients and carers with iPhones can now keep an up-to-date medicines list on their iPhone and email and print the list. The new Medicines List iPhone App, developed by NPS: Better Choices, Better Health, also allows people to schedule reminders which prompt them to take their medicine. For more information visit the NPS Medicines List iPhone App

Patients Actively Engaged in Their Care Fare Better, International Survey Finds

Adults with complex health care needs who are engaged in their care report fewer medical errors, rate their care more highly, and hold more positive views of the health system, according to an analysis of findings from an 11-nation survey conducted by The Commonwealth Fund. But the level of patient engagement across countries varies widely. patients in Switzerland and the U.K. are the most likely to be engaged by their providers, while those in Norway and Sweden are the least engaged. In the middle range are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the U.S. Read more

ACSQHC launches its new web site [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has a new web site. You can still use www.safetyandquality.gov.au, but the new look and layout should make accessing our information much easier. You can also now subscribe to the ACSQHC newsletter, publications and events, media releases and On the Radar through the website - follow the 'subscribe' link at the bottom of the page. Alternatively follow ACSQHC on Twitter @ACSQHC.

New Website for National Eating Disorders Collaboration

The National Eating Disorders Collaboration has a new website - check it out

ABC Health Reports about cancer

This month, the ABC Health Report featured two interesting programs about cancer. The first looked into the adverse effects of pesticides and other pollutants as major causes of cancer and the second examined the use of vaccines to treat tumours by setting the immune system on them.

Mobile Stroke Treatment

There is an interesting article in the BBC News Health section this month about the treatment of stroke in specialised ambulances en route to hospital, which experts say is feasible and believe could boost the number of patients who receive life-saving therapy. Read More.

Local Events:

Inaugural Professorial Lecture Series – Centre for Research and Action in Public Health (CeRAPH) at the University of Canberra

Professor Deborah Davis will be speaking on 'The decline of normal birth: the maternity system's "failure to progress"'. Deborah has been working in health care for over 25 years. Midwifery is her job, her hobby and her passion. She began her midwifery career as a homebirth midwife and has since held positions focusing on clinical practice, management, education, leadership and research. Her current role

is Professor of Midwifery, Clinical Chair with ACT Health and Canberra University.

Date: Monday 16 April 2012
Time: 5pm - 7pm
Venue: Ann Harding Conference Centre, University of Canberra
RSVP: by 10 April 2012 to maryanne.simpson@canberra.edu.au

ACT Government Health Policy Seminar Series
Obesity Network Launch - Spotlighting Perinatal Obesity

- Perinatal obesity is on the rise, why?
- What can we do to prevent further increases ?
- How do we provide services to ensure the best health outcomes for these mums and their babies?

For further information, see the attached flyer.

Date: Monday 30 April 2012
Time: Light lunch: 12:30 pm
Seminar: 1.00—2.00pm
Networking: 2:00—2:30pm

Consultation Forum for Women Mental Health Consumers and Carers
Would you like to influence mental health services and policy in the ACT to be more responsive to your needs?

The Women and Mental Health Working Group and the Women's Centre for Health Matters invite ACT women who are living with mental health issues or caring for someone with a mental health issue to participate in public consultation forum for women mental health consumers and carers in the ACT. There will be a speaker on legal issues and you will have the opportunity to provide feedback on services and support. Light refreshments will be provided. Read more

Date: Monday 30 April 2012
Time: 5pm - 7pm
Venue: Canberra City, venue to be advised
RSVP: admin@wchm.org.au by Monday the 23 April 2012. If transport is difficult for you or there's anything you require to make it easier for you to participate in the consultation, please contact WCHM to make arrangements.

Survey for Women with Disabilities
The Women with Disabilities ACT (WWDACT) and the Women's Centre for Health Matters (WCHM) are conducting a survey for women with disabilities in the ACT and surrounding region. If you're a woman with a disability you are invited to participate in the survey *Strong women, great city – a survey for ACT's women with disabilities*. By taking 15-20 minutes to complete this survey, you will be helping to better understand and represent the needs of women with disabilities in the ACT.

When you complete the survey you will be able to go into the draw to win a beautiful hamper from The Body Shop, valued at $250. It includes lots of goodies to spoil yourself with or to share with friends!

Click here to complete the survey. The survey will be open until Friday April 27.

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey you can call Angela Carnovale at the Women's Centre for Health Matters (WCHM) on 6290 2166 or email her on a.carnovale@wchm.org.au. You can also call to request a hard copy of the survey.
Your completed survey will be confidential but will add to the voice of our community

Pain Support Group
The speaker at the next Pain Support Group will be **Dr Michelle Austin, Change & Adoption Manager - Calvary eHealth** and her talk will be of interest to other health consumers and consumer reps. Her talk will be titled "Taking the Pain out of your eHealth Journey".

Date: Tuesday 26 June 2012
Time: 12pm - 2pm
Venue: ACT Sports House, Meeting Room 2
RSVP: Marg McCulloch margaret@alross.com.au

We are HCCA

HCCA is the peak health consumer organisation in the ACT supporting and developing health consumer perspectives and policy in the ACT for over 30 years. HCCA is a body through which everyone can participate in policy, planning and service decisions that affect their health. HCCA works to improve the quality and availability of health services, supports consumers to identify shared priorities about health, and represents these views to the ACT Government.

Office Hours
10am - 4pm,
Monday - Friday

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Upcoming Events

Consumer Representatives Forum

12 April 2012 12:30pm – 2:30pm at HCCA offices in Hackett

Health Issues Group

15 May 2012 10:30am – 2:30pm at SHOUT offices in Pearce