healthcare consumers

You can make health services healthier!

Staff Profile—Alisha Summerton

Alisha Summerton joined HCCA in March this year and has embraced the responsibility of organising events and training for our Consumer Representatives. After a recent move from Melbourne upon completing a Bachelor of Education last year, Alisha is thoroughly enjoying the opportunities her new position awards her to meet new people and hear their stories. Alisha is looking forward to continuing to work together with our membership to promote a positive health system and loves to be part of an organisation that makes a difference within our community. Alisha's dedication and winning smile are invaluable assets to the HCCA and we are lucky to have her

Consumer Representatives

Vacancies

ACT Medicare Local Clinical Governance Committee

Time: 7:30am
Frequency: Quarterly
Venue: ACT Medicare Local offices, Liardet Street, Weston
For further information, see the Terms of Reference and Nominate here.

Recent Endorsements

Jo Bothroyd – Gastroenterology and Hepatology Quality Assurance Committee
Sharon Eacott – ACT Medicare Local Community Advisory Council
Joanne Baumgartner – Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration in the Community Setting Working Group

Scholarship Opportunities

2012 Population Health Congress

The 2012 Population Health Congress will be held from 10-12 September 2012 in Adelaide, South Australia. The Congress will examine the impacts of Australia's changing demographics on health care, the role of climate change in global health and how social inequalities are being addressed, among other themes. HCCA is offering sponsorship for a consumer to attend this conference. The successful applicant must have a proven record of reporting back through HCCA mechanisms and a keen interest in/experience of the issues under discussion. **Applications close 16 May 2012.** If you are interested in attending, please nominate here.

e-Health

Measuring the impact of e-health

The South African Department of Health is currently reviewing its e-health strategy, which has been developed over the past six years but is yet to be implemented.

This Bulletin of the World Health Organization is about measuring the impact of e-health in South Africa and provides an interesting insight into telehealth initiatives in a country where the use of mobile technology is expanding rapidly and where mobile access among less affluent and rural communities is far greater than access to computers. Read Bulletin here

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

P: + 61 2 6230 7800
F: + 61 2 6230 7833

Upcoming Events

Health Issues Group

15 May 2012 10:30am – 12:30pm at SHOUT offices in Pearce

Consumer Representatives Forum

21 June 2012 12:30pm – 2:30pm at SHOUT offices in Pearce

Consumer Representatives Training

23&30 June 2012 10am – 3pm at HCCA offices in Hackett

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Article from The Australian by Adam Cresswell, 9 May 2012
Use e-health or lose incentives, GPs told

GENERAL practitioners will be required to participate in the electronic health records system due to launch on July 1 or lose an existing incentives package worth up to $50,000 a year per practice.

The move, which is part of a wider tightening of criteria for GP incentives that will save $83.5 million over four years, is accompanied by a staging or scaling back of other payments designed to encourage doctors to get involved in tele-health, which the government has spruiked as one of its signature reforms.

The tele-health measures will save $190m over five years by introducing a distance requirement for the first time, meaning the site where patients are having the consultation -- usually a GP surgery -- will have to be at least 15km away from the specialist whose advice is being sought.

The savings will be redirected into a $233.7m push to continue the government's e-health agenda, which began in earnest two years ago with a $500m commitment over two years to allow personal electronic health records to be introduced.

The government says the latest $233m payment will allow the National E-Health Transition Authority to "further develop national standards", operate infrastructure, and to safeguard privacy concerns by putting the system under the scrutiny of the Australian Information Commissioner, as well as provide the funds to run the system for the next two years.

But the decision to make participation in the electronic health records scheme a requirement for continued eligibility for the existing incentives is unlikely to please GPs, some of whom have called for extra payments to compensate them for the additional time they say it will take to compile, verify and upload a patient's clinical information when a new record is created.

Many doctors also report continued confusion over whether they will be entitled to claim a higher Medicare rebate than would normally apply, if setting up an electronic record pushes a consultation into the next payment band.

There have also been calls for the government to provide additional payments to compensate GPs for set-up costs such as new technology and IT support.

Under the other changes to the Practice Incentives Scheme, which was created in the late 1990s to compensate GPs for the additional costs involved in various activities such as providing after-hours care, GPs will also lose payments that reward them for ensuring more than 90 per cent of their patients are fully immunised, worth up to $4500 a year per practice.

They will also have to give pap smears to 70 per cent of their eligible female patients, instead of the current 65 per cent, while targets for diabetes patients have also increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of patients given care plans.

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Items of interest

Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter

The April 2012 Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter is attached. Issues covered include the Light Rail report, a bus trial for the visually impaired, pedestrian safety and more.

Facebook promotes organ donor registry

Facebook users can now enroll as organ donors through links to official registries. This should make it easier for people wanting to donate their organs to sign up. Read more

Website support for help with cost of living pressures

The ACT Government has developed a new one stop website called ACT Assistance for clients needing support to help with cost of living pressures. ACT Assistance is one source of ACT and Commonwealth funded programs. It helps people discover what's available and where they can find further details. The website was developed for use by the community and has been designed to be used as a tool for community sector workers when supporting clients in financial stress. View website

Local Events:

Proloquo2go

Proloquo2go is an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication Solution) designed for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad to assist with communication for people with disabilities. It has natural sounding text to speech voices, over 8,000 symbols, a large default vocabulary and is very user friendly. It is particularly useful for those in Special Education. Teachers, parents and professionals may be interested in attending this information session which will be run by the developer of this program, David Niemeijer.

Date: 29 May 2012
Time: 3:15 - 5:00 p.m (teachers) or 7:00 - 9:00pm (parents & professionals)
Venue: Black Mountain School, Dryandra St, O'Connor
RSVP: mary.pitt@ed.act.edu.au by NO LATER THAN Wednesday 16 May 2012 if you wish to attend. Please indicate which session you will be attending – numbers are limited

Advocating for Change

HCCA are running a 2 day workshop aimed at developing participant's skills in both individual and collective advocacy. It will also provide participants with the opportunity to develop their own advocacy action plan. To ensure a place you must register with HCCA. A flyer is attached for you to distribute through your own networks.

Date: 31 May 2012
Time: 10am – 3pm
Venue: MacKillop House Conference Centre, Lyneham
RSVP: email: adminofficer@hcca.org.au or call: 6230 7800

There will also be an optional follow up workshop on June 14 from 10am – 12pm.

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Introducing ANPHA

The University of Canberra's Centre for Research and Action in Public Health (CeRAPH) is holding a seminar to introduce the newly established Australian National Preventative Health Agency (ANPHA). The day will be presented by Louise Sylvan, Chief Executive Officer for ANPHA and former Commission of the Australian Productivity Commission and Deputy Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). For more information about the event pleased see the attached flyer.

Date: 12 June 2012
Time: 12noon – 1pm
Venue: Ann Harding Conference Centre University of Canberra
RSVP: Maryanne.simpson@canberra.edu.au

World Hepatitis Day 30 July 2012

A community and stakeholder forum will be held in Canberra to mark World Hepatitis Day on 30 July 2012. Please consider adding the details to your diary and feel free to promote more widely. Formal promotion and invitations will follow through the usual channels.

The forum will be of interest to hepatitis affected people and other interested individuals, medical/clinical types (including students) as well as AOD/BBV/Corrections/ Indigenous Health sector workers. Speakers will include Dr Peggy Brown, Director General ACT Health Directorate, Prof Geoff Farrell, A/Prof Narci Teoh, Prof Michael Levy and CNC Anne Blunn.

Date: 30 July 2012
Time: 12 noon to 1:30pm
Venue: The Canberra Hospital Auditorium (adjacent to Reception)
RSVP: email business@hepatitisresourcecentre.com.au or call (02) 6230 6344.

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