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Newsflash

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Midnight Basketball 2

Bendigo Youth Arts Network 2

Secrets of Successful Boards Seminar 2

Cheap Software for Community Organisations 3

Good Better Best Forum 3

Strengthening links with General Practice 4

Evaluation Workshop 4

National Disease Management Conference 4

Expression of Interest

The Bendigo Loddon Ageing Framework Reference Group through the PCP is calling for Expressions of Interest from organisations or individuals interested in undertaking a small project to document a Facilitators Manual for the 'Dance Your Way to Health' Program which was undertaken by Inglewood and Districts Health Service from November 2005 to December 2007. The organisation/individual must have expertise in:

- Social Research
- Preparation of Adult Learning Resources
- Preparation of Instructional Manuals
- Effective Consultation

The Facilitators Manual will enable other organisations to use the information to establish 'Dance Your Way to Health' groups in diverse communities and will ensure best practice in implementing such programs.

A Project Brief can be obtained from the PCP Office by emailing blpcp@bchs.com.au or telephoning 54481624. Expressions of Interest will be received until 20 August 2008.

Wanted: Your Organisations Participation

The Department of Human Services is currently seeking member agencies of the PCP to Pilot the new changes to the SCTT. Changes to the SCTT include new questions and prompts around vision, accommodation, transport, problem gambling, alcohol consumption, oral health, chronic disease and consent.

The pilot has two components. The first component will take the form of desktop / paper based trial, by individual clinicians who will work through a series of referral scenarios using SCTT which are then returned (via post) so that the reliability of responses can be analysed.

The second component will take the form of focus groups that work through a series of referral scenarios using SCTT and provide feedback of it's general usability. There will be one focus group for clinicians with little or no experience in using SCTT and one for clinicians with much experience in using SCTT.

Time commitments to be involved in the pilot will be two hours for the desktop / paper based trial and three hours for the focus groups. Participation in the pilot will be reimbursed.

If you are interested in being involved please contact Leah Wilson at the BLPCP office, 54448 1682 as soon as possible.

Midnight Basketball Bendigo Seeks Volunteers

Midnight Basketball is a combination of activity and education that was started in the USA in 1986. Midnight Basketball was launched in Redfern, NSW in February 2006 with great success, and a new group is soon to be launched in Bendigo. One of the keys to the success of the tournament is the volunteers and coaches, or Team Managers.

Volunteers do not need to have any basketball skills, but will need to be available for most if not all of the eight weeks of the tournament. Volunteers may be asked to help with; catering assistance, clean up, workshop helpers, bus drivers (we will have small buses that require only a normal drivers licence), bus assistants (help directions and supervision on buses), general assistance (scoring, score board operator). All volunteers will be required to complete a Working With Children Check.

Security will be provided and a Youth Worker will attend each night to help with any behavioural issues. Volunteers are not expected to become involved in any disciplinary actions.

Through the combination of activity and education, Midnight Basketball Australia aims to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour, support the learning needs of young people and encourage them to participate in mainstream society and their local community, provide a safe environment, combat drug, alcohol and other physical abuse by young people.

Midnight Basketball is open to all local youth, aged 12 to 18 years. During the tournament season, matches are played on a Saturday night between 7.30pm and Midnight. It is a mixed competition. To be eligible to compete, all players must attend a workshop which are conducted by the Frank Team and give an opportunity to gain valuable life-skills. Healthy meals are also provided for players and volunteers.

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation is the major sponsor of this event, with other sponsors including Midnight Basketball Australia and the City of Greater Bendigo. If you would be prepared to be a volunteer for this program or would like further information please contact Candice Hofton - 0419 785 174.

Bendigo Youth Arts Network - Growing a Fringe Youth Arts Festival

12 to 14 September 2008

The View Street precinct in Bendigo is set to come alive for 3 days with a free Youth Arts Festival showcasing short plays, performances, short films and animations. Growing a Fringe will celebrate our local young people's creativity and stories with showcases of their work and opportunities to participate in free workshops.

Program available for download mid August at:

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au or www.myspace.com/growingafringe

For further information contact: growingafringe@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Reminder - Secrets of Successful Boards Seminar in Melbourne (12 August 2008)

A healthy committee of management or board is integral to the success of any community organisation. The Secret of Successful Boards Seminar, to be held on 12 August at the William Angliss Conference Centre, will help you to understand your legal and practical responsibilities as a committee/board member, and how you can create a more harmonious, more productive and more effective working group.

This course has been developed specifically for the community sector and - at only \$195 per person - is best value-for-money training.

For further information and to register for the Secrets of Successful Boards Seminar, please go to: www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardseminars.

For further information please contact The Our Community Team on (03) 9320 6800 or service@ourcommunity.com.au.

CHEAP SOFTWARE FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

DonorTec www.donortec.com.au is a new program launched in 2007 to facilitate non profits receiving technology donations from companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, Flickr, Bytes of Learning, Sentry Networks and more companies to come.

Imagine getting current Microsoft software for an admin fee that is 4% of what you would normally pay e.g. Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2007 for \$22 (plus GST). And yes, these are genuine fully licensed products and we are the official donation partner for Microsoft Australia <http://www.microsoft.com/australia/corpaffairs/corpcit/community/sdp.msp>

DonorTec has already assisted over 1600 Australian nonprofits to make total savings of over \$23 million in their operations! Eligible Australian non-profit organisations can get donations to set up or upgrade their IT infrastructure. If you would like more information on eligibility and specific donor criteria go to <http://www.donortec.com.au/eligibility>.

The DonorTec Program is provided to the non-profit sector by Australian non-profit Community Information Strategies Australia Inc. (CISA), in partnership with TechSoup in the US. Both CISA and TechSoup are part of a global non-profit partnership for technology donations.

For more information and to see what we can offer, please visit www.donortec.com.au or you can contact our staff to discuss your situation. <http://www.donortec.com.au/contact>. We strongly suggest that you register even if you think that you are not eligible. We are seeking new donors all the time and these may have different criteria for eligibility. Also current donors may change their eligibility criteria in future.

If you need further information please do not hesitate to contact us:

Email: support@donortec.com.au

Web: www.donortec.com.au

With thanks to Bridget and the Youth Arts Network for this information.

LODDON MALLEE REGION "GOOD BETTER BEST"

The Loddon Mallee Department of Human Services is hosting a Forum for executives, managers and practitioners in all areas of human services, including:

- Acute Health
- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Disability
- Education & Early Childhood Development
- Family Services & Out Of Home Care Providers
- Public Health
- Aged Care
- Child Protection
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Primary Health
- Youth Justice

The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity to:

- share good practice;
- see examples of how Government policy has been implemented in practice; and
- reflect on evidence which may improve the way we deliver services

The Forum will also create opportunities to reflect on shared priorities across the region. Please mark these dates in your diary :

When: Thursday 13th and Friday 14th November 2008

Venue and other information will be circulated with a *call for abstracts* in early August.

Contact: Karen Andrews, CHERC

mail: kandrews@bendigohealth.org.au or Phone (03)5454 6417

Strengthening Links with General Practice

If you are keen to collaborate with Divisions of General Practice and would like to strengthen links with General Practice, you may be interested in this Workshop.

The broad aims of the workshop are:

1. To provide a general introduction to the purpose of divisions and their relationships to General Practice.
2. To explore strategies for working with divisions

The Workshop is being facilitated by General Practice Victoria (GPV) and is aimed at member organisations of Primary Care Partnerships, DHS staff and non-government organisations.

A discussion on protocols for working with divisions is included in the Agenda.

A registration form must be sent in order to secure a place.

The Workshop will be held on Thursday 28 August 2008 at Arrow on Swanston, 488 Swanston Street, Carlton, from 10am to 1pm.

Registration Forms can be obtained from Eliza Sanneman on 9341 5299.

Places are limited so register now!

One Day Evaluation Workshop

Facilitated by Department of Human Services
Impact evaluation theory - Lyn Talbot LaTrobe University
Data Collection and Analysis - Jon Willis LaTrobe University

10 - 3pm, Thursday 28 August 2008
Mt Wycheproof Motor Inn, 360 Broadway Wycheproof

Full program will be available from Wednesday 14 August 2008

Mark the date in your diary and send your RSVP to Tina Zanders tina.zanders@dhs.vic.gov.au
There is no cost for this Workshop

Reminder: 4th Annual National Disease Management Conference

The conference will consist of one day of workshops followed by two days of presentations. These will include those showcasing innovations in Chronic Disease Self-management in a variety of contexts (disease groups and modes of intervention), proffered papers, and presentations from both Australian and international leaders in the field.

WEBSITE: www.cdsm2008.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Melbourne Conference Management, Union House, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010

Tel: 0 3 8344 3682 Email: cdsm2008@union.unimelb.edu.au

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