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# Newsflash

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Integration of Gamblers Help Services with Primary Care Partnerships

In 2006, the Victorian Government announced a five year strategy to address problem gambling and as a result has redeveloped the Gambler's Help service system. The new Service was implemented on 1 July 2008. Two key action areas are:

- More systematic approaches to service coordination which is focused on strengthening partnerships and service integration between Gambler's Help services and other relevant service providers in the broader system of care; and
- Promoting Healthy Communities which is focused on developing activities to identify the risks of problem gambling and equipping the community to take actions to mitigate problem gambling in its early stages.

The Office of Gaming and Racing which is situated within the Department of Justice, has worked closely with the Primary Health Branch of the Department of Human Services to expand the Primary Care Partnership Agenda to include problem gambling services. It was agreed that the PCP platform is a well established, flexible and robust infrastructure that would support the objectives of the redeveloped Gambler's Help service system.

The redevelopment of the Gambler's Help service system requires that all service providers of Gamblers Help Services (in our case this is St Lukes) become members of the local PCP and adopt the key elements of Service Coordination and Integrated Health Promotion as part of the PCP Strategy.

The Integrated Health Promotion approach will present new opportunities for better planning processes, capacity building and enhanced coordination of the health promotion effort. This will facilitate the introduction of more proactive problem gambling health promotion activities.

Bendigo Loddon PCP will sign a Service Agreement with the Department of Justice and our Integrated Health Promotion Committee looks forward to welcoming St Lukes Gamblers Help staff to its meetings.

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## Kathy Farr - PCP Project Officer

I have recently started with BLPCP in the role of Project Officer. I am excited about working with the PCP. My role will be concentrating on the areas of Service Coordination and Integrated Chronic Disease Management. I will be supporting e-communication by supporting the use of the Service Coordination Tool Templates and the ConnectingCare website.

For over ten years I worked for Divisions of General Practice as a Project Officer. Within this time I worked on many projects including coordinating the More Allied Health Service Delivery (MAHS) and overseeing a youth health centre. My formal mathematics training led me to be specifically involved in evaluation of projects, data collection, analysis and reporting, and in the preparation of health needs analysis. I hope to use these skills at the PCP.

I have training qualifications and taught over many years as a sessional teacher in TAFE and adult education, primarily in the areas of computing and mathematics.

I may be contacted by Ph: 5448 1683, Mobile: 0438 072 169  
or email: [kathyfarr@bchs.com.au](mailto:kathyfarr@bchs.com.au)

## Comments Required by City of Greater Bendigo for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

**PCP Member Organisations and Individuals are encouraged to make comments on this draft strategy by either:**

1. Emailing to [strategyunit@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategyunit@bendigo.vic.gov.au)
2. Sending a letter addressed to City of Greater Bendigo, PO Box 733 Bendigo 3552

### WHAT'S THE STRATEGY ABOUT?

The City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) has prepared a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and for the first time this document incorporates the Municipal Early Years Plan. Promoting Health and Wellbeing in Greater Bendigo across all age groups advances the commitment Council has made to being a Child Friendly City. The Strategy is based on the Social Model of Health and identifies the importance of the physical, natural, social and economic environments to building healthy communities.

The Strategy acknowledges the importance of shared responsibility for promoting and achieving healthy communities and healthy populations within the City of Greater Bendigo. The Strategy outlines CoGB's role and the activities needed to support the continuing development of vibrant, resilient and healthy communities.

### WHERE ARE WE UP TO?

The development of the Strategy commenced in January 2008 and included a review of population health and community wellbeing data at a local, national and international level. Interviews and workshops with local health and community support services and input from local residents assisted to identify the contemporary health and wellbeing issues. A draft Strategy is now available for review and includes actions designed to strengthen the health and wellbeing of the communities of Greater Bendigo over the next three years.

### Building Healthy Communities

The Strategy includes the following four priority objectives:

1. **Develop Liveable, Linked and Sustainable Towns**  
Included in this priority is the development/re-development of multi-purpose, accessible community facilities linked by transport, designed to strengthen access to services and to increase participation in programs/activities. The impact of climate change on water, energy and food consumption is also identified for some attention and further research.
2. **Build Social Capacity**  
Strengthening Greater Bendigo as a welcoming and inclusive community through targeted programs is included in this priority. Promoting healthy lifestyle practices, encouraging all residents to achieve and maintain good health is a major focus.
3. **Promote Social Justice.**  
This priority highlights the factors that contribute to social and economic disadvantage and identify ways to provide greater support to residents experiencing difficulties. This priority includes actions to increase education and employment opportunities and to monitor the availability of affordable housing.
4. **Strengthen Service Capacity**  
Recognising the importance of working in partnership to build a robust platform of services and to increase residents ease of access to services, this priority focuses on strengthening the working relationship between health and community service providers. Actions associated with this priority include inter agency planning, joint advocacy and co-ordinated service promotion across all service sectors.

### NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

You are invited to comment on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy until **19 September 2008**.

Copies of the document are available on our [website www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au) or call the Strategy Unit on 54346148 and a hard copy will be forwarded to you.

After 19 September, all the comments received will be reviewed and the necessary changes made to the draft document before presenting it to Council for formal adoption. Once the Strategy is adopted, implementation will commence.

### WHO TO CONTACT:

If you would like to discuss this project, please call Lindy Wilson, Social Planner on 5434 6224 or email [l.wilson@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:l.wilson@bendigo.vic.gov.au).

## CrimCheck

**Are delays in Police Check results holding you up?  
Are you sick of all the paperwork involved?**

Monash Volunteer Resource Centre in conjunction with Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre and City of Greater Bendigo cordially invites you or a representative to an Information Session about CrimCheck.

**Venue: Reception Room, Bendigo Town Hall, Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo**

**When: Tuesday 16 September 2008, 11am—1pm**

**CrimCheck is an affordable, quick, efficient and secure online system of police checking for volunteers and paid staff. It is an online system operating from Monash Volunteer Resource Centre in Glen Waverley.**

**R.S.V.P. to Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre Phone: 5441 1404**

**Email: [bgovolunteercentre@ymca.org.au](mailto:bgovolunteercentre@ymca.org.au)**

## 8 OLINDA STREET CENTRE (Cnr Olinda & Mitchell Sts, Bendigo)

The 8 Olinda Street Centre is managed by Bendigo Health Psychiatric Services. The library provides information on mental health and mental illness to everyone in the Loddon Mallee region.

The centre itself was first established in 1999 with the aim of providing a base for groups and programs, with families and friends affected by mental illness. The building is a free resource to most support groups and has a warm and welcoming feel. It can be booked for day or night use.

Groups currently using the venue include our new support group Women Navigating Midlife, mothers who have experienced the loss of a baby, a strength building group for women experiencing anxiety and depression, GROW, ARAFEMI, family and friends carer support group, Kids With Confidence program and others.

An overhead projector and screen, whiteboards, DVD player and recorder, TV/Video, a cassette player are all available for use on the premises.

The centre is open Mon – Thurs 10am – 4pm, closed Fri

***For further information about the resources, booking guidelines, the use of the facility or groups currently running, contact Karyn***

***Phone: 5441 7881 or Email: [kbath@bendigohealth.org.au](mailto:kbath@bendigohealth.org.au)***

## Call for Abstracts - Better Practice: What does it take?

Better Practice: What does it take? The Loddon Mallee Regional Conference to be held 13-14 November 2008 is calling for abstracts. This is an exciting opportunity for organisations, researchers, educators and government to share innovations, ideas and experiences across the range of human services within the region. The Conference Committee is seeking abstract submissions for oral and poster papers that demonstrate positive and innovative practice in health and well being, including:

- Emerging social issues
- Workforce challenges
- Agencies working together
- Holistic approaches to health and wellbeing
- The changing environment and the future
- Breaking the cycle
- New models of care

The Committee is keen to hear from grassroots organisations, community groups, service organisations, researchers and educators, the philanthropic sector, and others, including DHS funded organisations confronting challenges in:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Acute Health Aged Care                                    | Mental Health Primary Health                     |
| Alcohol and other drugs Child Protection                  | Public Health Youth                              |
| Family Services Education and early childhood development | Community Development Out of home care providers |
| Disability Housing  | Government Justice                               |

All organisations, researchers, educators and government are encouraged to consider submitting an abstract, and to circulate this information through their networks and partnerships.

For further information:

Better Practice: What does it take? Innovation and Best Practice in our Region Regional Conference 2008

Karen Andrews, PO Box 126, BENDIGO VIC 3552, (03) 5454 6417 Fax: 5454 6420

[kandrews@bendigohealth.org.au](mailto:kandrews@bendigohealth.org.au)

## Working with Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Assault

Friday October 17, 2008

9.15am – 4.30pm

This workshop is for practitioners who have completed "Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault" or who have experience of working with adolescent victim/survivors. It covers Theoretical Frameworks and Guiding Principles for working with survivors of recent or past sexual assault, issues for adolescent survivors, and strategies for working with the issues of anger, guilt and sexuality.

### For further information or registration:

Centre Against Sexual Assault, Ring (03) 5441 0430

## Baker IDI - Heart and Diabetes Institute

### 2008 Training Programs for Health Professionals

<b>2 day intensive diabetes program</b>	27 and 28 October 2008	Intensive diabetes update covering management of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, diabetes complications, hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia, nutrition, monitoring of diabetes control and insulin delivery devices.
<b>5 day comprehensive diabetes program</b>	27 to 31 October 2008	Comprehensive diabetes program covering all facets of diabetes care.
<b>Eating disorders and Type 1 diabetes</b>	17 October 2008	Half day workshop exploring eating disorders in Type 1 Diabetes, psychological issues, team approach to management and management strategies.
<b>Diabetes ketoacidosis (DKA)</b>	17 October 2008	Half day workshop looking at risk factors for diabetes ketoacidosis, management in the acute care setting and follow up after discharge.

### For further information contact:

Christine McGregor, Training Program Coordinator, Phone- 9258 5053, Fax- 9258 5090,  
Email- [christine.mcgregor@bakeridi.edu.au](mailto:christine.mcgregor@bakeridi.edu.au) or [www.bakeridi.edu.au](http://www.bakeridi.edu.au)

## WARM WATER AND CHAIR BASED EXERCISE Leader Training Course

Arthritis Victoria, a Registered Training Organisation, is holding a Warm Water and Chair-based Exercise Leader Training Course in **Bendigo** from **Tuesday 16 to Thursday 18 September 2008**.

This 3 day course is ideal for allied health assistants, fitness instructors and activity/recreation officers working in rehabilitation or aged care facilities, to increase their knowledge of arthritis and how to lead gentle exercise classes.

The course is conducted by registered physiotherapists and is accredited by Kinect Australia (formerly VICFIT).

If you have staff or volunteers who would be interested in attending this course in Bendigo, please contact Sandra Barry, Organisational Support Coordinator, on (03) 8531 8008 or email [sandra@arthritisvic.org.au](mailto:sandra@arthritisvic.org.au).

Further information can also be found at [www.arthritisvic.org.au](http://www.arthritisvic.org.au)

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[kerri-annblackwell@bchs.com.au](mailto:kerri-annblackwell@bchs.com.au)

