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# Newsflash

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## Setting Priorities for the Bendigo Loddon PCP Strategic Plan

By now most of our PCP member organisations will have been contacted by Dr Ronelle Hutchinson of Engage Consulting Australia to have preliminary discussions around the BLPCP Strategic Planning process. Thank you to all those who have spoken with Ronelle already and shared your views on what the priorities of our PCP should be for the coming three years.

The PCP Executive Committee consider it important that all organisations have the opportunity to have their say on the direction the PCP takes and the way in which our Partnership operates to benefit our member organisations and our communities. So, if you haven't already, we urge you to find time in your busy schedules to speak with Ronelle and help inform the direction of your PCP. Ronelle can be contacted on 0413 900 804 or via email at [ronelle@engageconsultingaustralia.com.au](mailto:ronelle@engageconsultingaustralia.com.au)

Following from this initial round of consultation discussions, we will be holding a Priority Setting Workshop with senior managers from each organisation at the end of July. This workshop will build on priority setting work achieved in the planning day held in mid February. The aim of the workshop will be to decide the two or three issues that our PCP will be focused on in the coming three years. These will be the broad issues where the PCP members believe real progress can be made by working in partnership with other organisations. Early suggestions from member organisations include the broad issues of:

- Aboriginal health
- Emerging Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) populations
- Elderly people living alone
- Young People
- Family violence

Relevant people in each organisation will shortly be sent an invitation to this workshop. Once the priorities are decided, a series of follow up workshops will be arranged throughout August to help determine the types of activities we might do for each priority issue.

We'll keep you updated on the progress of writing our Strategic Plan over the coming months. We hope to see representatives from each member organisation attend the planned workshops and we look forward to a lively discussion about how the Strategic Plan can best reflect the needs of our Partnership and the communities we serve.

## Diabetes Forum ....place these important dates in your diary

The Loddon Mallee Region of the Department of Human Services is hosting a Diabetes Forum on **10 and 11 September 2009** at the All Seasons Resort Bendigo. Dr Norman Swan will be the facilitator for the forum and the keynote speakers will include Dr Ralph Audehm and Dr Marco Bonollo. The forum program and registration process are currently being finalised and will be made available by the end of June 2009. **For further information please contact Nerissa Fry, Program and Service Advisor, Primary Health and Drugs Unit on 5434 5696 (Tuesday to Thursday).**

## Community Profile Updated May 2009

A great deal more information has been completed on the **Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership Community Wellbeing Profile**. Nancy Vaughan has been working steadily to keep the profile of the City of Greater Bendigo and the Loddon Shire information current and the latest version is now on the PCP Website [www.blpcp.com.au](http://www.blpcp.com.au).

The newest version has the following new information:

Infectious diseases, breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, HIV, road accidents, workplace accidents, farm accidents, family violence, rental stress, mortgage stress, self assessed mental, behavioral and mood problems, deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries 2004-2006.

In addition, a number of the other tables have now been updated with current available information.

The BLPCP will continue to have the Profile updated as new information becomes available. This will happen regularly and it is worth checking the website before you use any information to see what date is on the cover. Each time the Profile is updated, the date on the cover will change.

The purpose of this Community Profile is to assist staff of PCP members to have the latest information at hand when planning new services, preparing submissions and presenting reports and information. **If you know of any other useful information that should be contained in the Profile, please email us at [blpcp@bchs.com.au](mailto:blpcp@bchs.com.au) or telephone the PCP Office on 5448 1624.**

## Organ Donations in Bendigo

Are you interested in assisting?

At the last BLPCP Executive Committee, Barry Secombe, Director Community Wellbeing at the City of Greater Bendigo advised the Committee that an invitation had been issued by the University of Newcastle in NSW to participate in a project which aims to increase organ donation registration across Australia.

The University of Newcastle has submitted an application to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for funding to commence this project in 2010 and are currently recruiting communities to participate if the University is funded by the NHMRC.

**The Bendigo Loddon PCP Executive Committee is now seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations that would like to participate in the project in the City of Greater Bendigo.** This would require allocating a small proportion of the workload of an existing staff member such as a Health Promotion Officer or similar. A small budget may be provided to assist the organisation to do this and the role of the person would be to place intervention materials such as signage and registration forms around the community in strategic places. The staff member would also need to liaise with the University's researchers to monitor progress, update materials and arrange media coverage and community seminars. The commitment of the staff member would be from 2010 to 2012.

If you would like to express your organisation's interest in participating in this project (if it is funded) please register your interest by providing a contact name, email address and telephone number to [blpcp@bchs.com.au](mailto:blpcp@bchs.com.au) noting that it is for the Organ Donation Project. **Expressions of Interest must be received by Friday 3 July 2009.**

## PCP Office Changes

Leanne Oberin has joined our small team in the Bendigo Loddon PCP Office. Leanne has replaced Kerri Ann Blackwell who has returned to her home in Rosebud after 2 years in the PCP Office.

Leanne comes to the PCP from RegionalOne Credit Union and has lived and worked in Bendigo for many years.

Leanne's email address is [PCPAdmin@bchs.com.au](mailto:PCPAdmin@bchs.com.au) and phone number is 5448 1624.

## Service Coordination Tool Template (SCTT) Training in August

Client Management Systems, such as TRAK, iSoft and HACC specific software, have the SCTT embedded within them. The vendors of these products have been working with DHS to ensure that their software is updated to reflect the new SCTT changes. If you use one of these Client Management Systems, or any other client management system, we would encourage you to attend the SCTT 2009 training which will be held in August in Bendigo.

DHS Consultants will be facilitating training which is proposed to be held on **Thursday 20 August 2009 from 10am to 12.30pm.**

The goal is for each organisation, or specific sites of larger organisations, to nominate a staff member to attend the SCTT training. It will be important that the person nominated is committed to the implementation of SCTT 2009 within your organisation and also has the opportunity and skills to train others, including existing staff and any new staff who may come on board at a later date. This SCTT training will be similar to train the trainer.

Please think about the most appropriate person or persons to nominate from your organisation and mark this tentative date in their diaries now. Confirmation of the date and the venue for the training will be available soon.

There will be **10 places available for Bendigo Loddon PCP members**, 10 places for Campaspe PCP members and 10 places for Central Victoria Health Alliance PCP members in the Bendigo training.

**Please email your nominations through to Leah Wilson [leahwilson@bchs.com.au](mailto:leahwilson@bchs.com.au).**

## Professional Development Opportunity for Allied Health and Other Staff who Sometimes Work with People with an Intellectual Disability

Allied health practitioners, managers of health and community services programs, nurses, front of house staff, and intake workers are invited to attend a future training session in Bendigo which will be facilitated by Dr Jane Tracey from the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV). The session will assist those who would like to develop skills in how to assist people with an intellectual disability and other clients with communication and /or cognitive impairment. It will also cover information on the role of intellectual disability services and access and eligibility for health services by people in Disability Accommodation Services. This opportunity is for people working in services that are not disability specific.

Did you know that:

- 2-3% of the Victorian population, or over 100,000 people, has an intellectual disability.
- 5,000 Victorians live in disability accommodation services (DAS)
- Accommodation tends to be group homes, where about 5 people with a disability live, supported by staff.
- Most staff have a Certificate IV in Disability Work from TAFE and are not qualified to perform health care, but can perform low risk procedures if they have received appropriate training for the specific person.
- Compared to the general population, people with an intellectual disability have:
  - life expectancy 20 years less
  - 25 times more epilepsy
  - 3-6 times more mental health disorders
  - Significant risk of impaired swallowing
  - 20 times more blindness and 7 times more vision impairment
  - 11 times more deafness
  - 3 times more obesity, plus underweight and malnutrition also significantly more common
  - 7 times more dental disease
  - Twice the risk of hospitalisation

The PCP Office will be arranging this professional development opportunity in August 2009 and will send further information to those who would like to attend. The date and time will be identified over the next few weeks so **if you are interested in registering please email [blpcp@bchs.com.au](mailto:blpcp@bchs.com.au)** and we will advise you of the details.

## Are You Keen to Help the People in Your Community Who Support Others?

*"Each community has its own unofficial counsellors which contribute to the natural resilience of the community. At times when the community faces an overwhelming prolonged trauma/natural disaster, the pressure on these unofficial counsellors increases and they may need support to continue playing their role." (Jeff Young, 1998)*

### What is 'No Bull Support'?

'No Bull Support' is a half day workshop designed to educate and support lay people who have contact with families and individuals affected by natural disasters, such as drought and bushfires (for example vets, volunteers, hairdressers, teachers, small business owners and community leaders, etc).

No Bull (NB) Support is **not** about teaching therapy or counselling but rather aims to provide easy-to-follow guidelines on supporting someone in trouble, when and how to provide referral options and attending to self care.

### This Train the Trainer Program includes:

- A detailed explanation of the 3 1/2 hr NB Support workshop
- Opportunities to reflect on facilitation styles and strategies
- Resources you will need to facilitate the program, which have been revised for 2009

**Who should attend:** Counsellors/Rural Support Workers who can **commit to presenting a minimum of 1 NB Support Workshop** in 2009 including past participants who did not go on to run an NB Support Workshop.

**When:** Monday 6 and 20 July 2009 (only attend 1); 10.00am to 4.00pm (lunch provided)

**Where:** The Bouverie Centre  
8 Gardiner Street, Brunswick 3056

**Parking:** Limited onsite parking available

**Cost:** **FREE!!** Only 20 places available per course, so place your reservation quickly.

**RSVP:** Contact Carmel Hobbs [c.hobbs@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:c.hobbs@latrobe.edu.au) for a registration form.

## Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) & Early Intervention in Chronic Disease (EliCD) Forum

The HARP/EliCD forum is the first of its kind and is an important step in enhancing the relationship between HARP and EliCD services to work more closely to address the needs of clients with chronic and complex needs. This forum will provide an excellent networking opportunity for HARP and EliCD staff.

We encourage representatives from all HARP and EliCD services to join us on the day for:

- **Myth Busting:** Hear about the history and evolution of HARP and EliCD services, the vision for the future, and the role of PCPs.
- **Q & A Session:** Join in a panel discussion to explore the current relationships between HARP and EliCD services, and the facilitators and barriers to further developing these relationships.
- **A Workshop:** Work with your regional colleagues to exchange practical ideas for moving forward.

**Intended Audience:** HARP and EliCD management and team leaders, PCP contacts, regional DHS contacts.

**Date:** Wednesday 22 July 2009

**Time:** 10.00am to 2.45pm (registration from 9.30am)

**Venue:** Windsor Hotel, Spring Street, Melbourne (opposite Parliament Station)

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