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Newsflash

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Bendigo Loddon PCP Office Staff

Many of you will have already met Judi Nicholson who works 4 days each week (not Wednesday) at the PCP Office. Judi is one of the two Health Promotion Project Workers and her role is to support the Bendigo Elder Abuse Network, the Diabetes in Loddon Action Group, the Alcohol Action Group and the Bendigo Family Violence Prevention Working Group as well as other health promotion activities.

Judi has a background in community development and has worked in local government, disability services, Salvation Army, neighbourhood houses and education facilities.

Nancy Cutlack from Heathcote Health has been seconded to Bendigo Loddon PCP to work two days each week (Tuesday and Wednesday) as our Service Coordination Project Officer. Nancy will support the Continuous Quality Framework Committee which is chaired by Jenny Harriot from Bendigo Health. Nancy's role will be to assist agencies to enhance their care planning activities, improve e-referral numbers in our catchment and assist chronic disease staff to use the Service Coordination Tool Templates to improve their work with their clients.

Leah Wilson, our Programs Coordinator is finishing work at Easter to take her 12 months maternity leave. We look forward to hearing about the birth of Leah and Travis's second child in May.

Leanne Oberin will continue to provide e-referral training to PCP member organisations as well as continue her partnership and communications projects. Leanne is available from Tuesday to Thursday each week.

Jeanette Grant is now in her fifth year as the PCP Executive Officer and is available to work with partner agencies from Tuesday to Friday each week.

Training for Staff and Volunteers Working in Flood Recovery

Health and Human Services Emergency Management is coordinating training for staff and volunteers currently working in flood recovery. This **Personal Support-Professional Development** training session will be conducted by **Dr Rob Gordon**, Consultant Psychologist for the Department of Human Services and a specialist in disaster management.

The course is designed to build on the existing professional training and skills of debriefers, defusers and practitioners who currently work with emergency affected individuals and families. Topics to be covered include:

- Understanding the emergency affected individual
- Practical tools for providing personal support
- Supporting other staff
- Handling difficult contacts
- Looking after yourself

The format of the days involves a mixture of lectures, small group work and exercises.

When: Wednesday 13 April 2011, 9.00am to 4.30pm

Where: Platinum Room, Foundry Hotel, 336 High Street, Bendigo

Registration: To register for this training session, please email Loddon.eoc@dhs.vic.gov.au by Friday 8 April 2011.

Bendigo Loddon Alcohol Action Plan

The Bendigo Loddon Alcohol Action Plan Group has only recently come together again after a break, and it was great to see some new faces around the table as well as those who have been regular attendees. Cheryl Sobczyk has returned as chair with Paul Hurnall as deputy. Since it has been a while since the last meeting and the Group now has some new faces, Jeanette Grant, Executive Officer of the PCP, presented an overview of the history of Bendigo Loddon Alcohol Action Plan which was both informative and very helpful in getting all those at the table up to speed. The Group is currently focusing on reviewing the plan and finalising the Terms of Reference. The date, time and venue of the meetings has been changed to the third Thursday of the month 3:00 -4:30pm at Beck Legal. There is no meeting in April due to the Easter break. All interested agencies are welcome to send a representative to the meeting.

Elder Abuse Network

The Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy Policy document and referral pathway flowchart is nearing completion which will soon bring a new phase for the Elder Abuse Network when the project finishes in June. Members are currently "road testing" the kit within their agencies as the Network puts the final touches on these documents. The Network is turning its attention to the launch date for these documents (the kit) on 15 June 2011 which will coincide with World Elder Abuse Day so there is much planning to be done over the next couple of months. The Network has also incorporated article of interest into the agenda as an ongoing item which allows for discussion and debate.

There is still an opportunity for those interested to attend the Elder Abuse and Family Violence Forum that is being conducted by the Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria on 30 June. For further information contact DVRCV, phone 9486 9866 or email dvrvc@dvrvc.org.au.

Diabetes in Loddon Action Group

Bendigo Loddon PCP has been conducting short workshops with the Diabetes in Loddon Action Group (DiLAG) on the VicHealth Health Promotion Partnership Tool. Last month the Group looked at how to access the purpose of partnership and in the coming meeting on 5 April its next activity will be on Mapping the Partnership.

DiLAG is very involved with the Kids Go For Your Life program and organised a visit from the van to Boort Primary School in early March. Additionally the canteen model – Healthy Options for Kids is a focus of the group as they work towards bringing interested parties together to discuss the model within the Loddon Shire.

Any organisations providing services for people with Diabetes in the Loddon Shire are welcome at future meetings of this group. Please contact Judy Keath, Boort District Health, phone 54515200

\$ 1.5 Million to Support Businesses in Flood-Affected Regions

The Victorian Coalition Government has announced a \$1.5million contribution to the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) Business Relief Fund that provides financial assistance to businesses affected by the recent floods. This assistance will help businesses which have not experienced the direct effect of flooding, but have nonetheless been detrimentally impacted upon by road closures and decreased levels of visitation to the regions.

Under the fund, businesses can apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to assist in the recovery process until 31 May 2011. Further information about the VECCI Business Relief Fund can be found at www.vecci.org.au/floods or at www.business.vic.gov.au.

'Break the Chain' Campaign

A campaign 'Break the Chain' launched recently seeks to contribute to a decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders that smoke, a proportion which is currently well above the national average at 47 percent.

The 'Break the Chain' television commercial features an Aboriginal women reflecting on how smoking has impacted on her life and the lives of those close to her. She details how she has lost friends and family to smoking-related diseases and how she has seen smokers' quality of life decrease as a result of smoking. The commercial ends with her encouraging others to quit as she has, to 'Break the Chain'.

To view the 'Break the Chain' and the 'Cough' television commercials and associated National Tobacco Campaign advertising go to www.australia.gov.au/quitnow.

Connectingcare and e-Referral Traffic

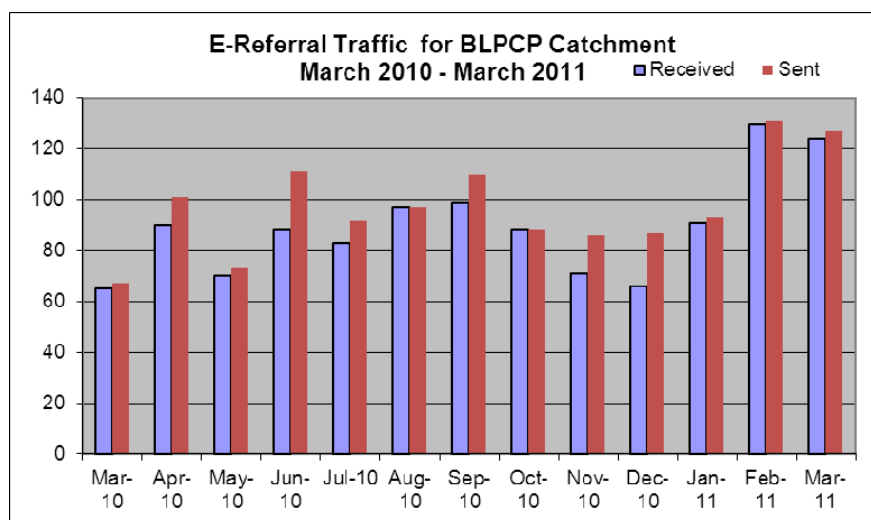
During March the following organisations have received and/or sent e-referrals through Connectingcare.com:

Received e-referrals

- Bendigo Community Health Services—Family Support
- Bendigo Health—HART, ACAS, RHT, PAC, Regional Continence Service, Referral Centre, Carer Support and Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre, Case Management Services, and Community and Regional Psychiatric Services (Adult Mental Health Service)
- Department of Human Services—Disability Client Services and Service Coordination
- Golden City Support Services—Community Support
- St Luke's Bendigo— Child First and Mental Health (Care Coordination, Recovery Focused Mental Health Services—Whirrakee)

Sent e-referrals

- Bapcare—Loddon Mallee
- Bendigo Health—Bendigo Campuses and Regional Services, and Community and Regional Psychiatric Services
- Boort District Health
- Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre
- Department of Human Services—Loddon Mallee Regional Office
- Golden City Support Service
- Inglewood and Districts Health Service—Inglewood Campus
- Loddon Mallee Housing Services, Bendigo
- Loddon Shire Council—Serpentine Office
- St Luke's, Bendigo—Child First



Are your agency details correct on the Connectingcare Service Directory?

As well as e-communication capacity, Connectingcare also offers an extensive Service Directory. This Service Directory is promoted across the Loddon Mallee Region and is used by different workers across a wide range of agencies. For this reason, it is important that agency information is kept up-to-date and accurate. If you would like to update your agency information or would like to receive training on how to do this yourself, please contact Leanne Oberin or Leah Wilson at the PCP Office on 5448 1624.

Bendigo Loddon Community Profile

The Bendigo Loddon Community Profile is currently being reviewed and updated and will soon be available on www.blpcp.com.au. Did you know:

- The number of Greater Bendigo residents with diabetes (including diabetes type 1, type 2, gestational diabetes, and other forms of diabetes, almost doubled between 2001 (2.0%) and 2008 (3.6%). In 2008, Greater Bendigo was ranked 51 out of 79 Victorian Local Governments for proportion of population with diabetes.
- In Loddon Shire, the number of residents with diabetes more than doubled between 2001 (4.6%) and 2008 (10.3%). In 2008, Loddon Shire had the highest proportion of population with diabetes of any of the 79 Victorian Local Governments.
- Dental caries, the disease which leads to tooth decay, has significant impacts upon the overall health and wellbeing of the population. In 2009/10 the admission rate for dental conditions for Loddon Shire residents decreased significantly, while the rate for Greater Bendigo residents increased to a five-year high. Both Greater Bendigo (3.84%) and Loddon (3.44%) had a higher rate of admissions for dental conditions than the Victorian average (3.03%).
- In the December 2010 quarter, compared to the Victorian average, Loddon had a higher percentage of children in all age groups who were fully vaccinated and Greater Bendigo had a slightly lower percentage of children in the 12-<15 month age group and 24-<27 month age groups who were fully vaccinated.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Bendigo Forum
Tuesday 5 April 11.00am to 12.00noon
Bendigo Town Hall



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is proposed as a new support system for people with a disability, their families and carers. It will transport the way services are funded and delivered, ensuring people are better supported and enabling them to have greater choice and control.

The forum will provide information about the proposed NDIS and the Australian Government Productivity Commission's draft report that makes recommendations about a NDIS.

For further information and to register your interest in attending the forum, please contact John Willis, Community Development Officer, Golden City Support Services on 5434 2777 or email john.willis@gcss.org.au.

Wear red to support the campaign.

Demographic Change and Workforce Innovation in Regional Victoria

The Department of Health's Sector Workforce Planning, Workforce Leadership and Development Branch is conducting a series of regional workshops to explore strategic and innovative approaches to address critical workforce factors and realities specifically affecting the regional health sector. The workshops will focus on developing innovative models and potential solutions to address issues relating to demographic change in regional and rural Victoria. Details of the Bendigo workshop are:

When: Thursday 7 April 2011; 9.00am (registration) to 2.00pm (morning tea and lunch will be provided)

Where: Quality Resort All Seasons, Bendigo, 171-183 Mclvor Road, Bendigo

RSVP: Holly Hildebrand phone 9096 9783 or email holly.hildebrand@health.vic.gov.au.

Women's Health Nurse Network

Pap Test Providers (or nurses currently undergoing training in this specialty) and nurses providing women's health services are invited to participate in the Women's Health Nurse Network which is supported by the Bendigo Loddon PCP and arranged by Bendigo Community Health Services and Central Victoria General Practice Network. This Network will provide a forum for networking and professional development. Details of the next meeting are:

When: Tuesday 3 May 2011; 12.00 noon to 2.00pm

Where: Central Victoria General Practice Network, 37 Rowan Street, Bendigo

Guest Speaker: Siobhan Bourke from Victorian Cytology Service presenting on STI Testing

RSVP: CVGPN by Thursday 21 April 2011, phone 5441 7806

Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault

This introductory workshop conducted by the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) is for anyone who works with victims/survivors of sexual assault and is relevant to generalist counsellors, support workers, students, teachers, etc. Participants will develop an understanding of the key issues, myths, effects, and how to respond effectively to disclosures.

Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault will be held on **Friday 6 May 2011** from **9.15 am to 4.00pm** at the Bendigo Club, 22 Park Street, Strathdale. This workshop, or equivalent, is a prerequisite for attendance at other CASA workshops.

For a registration form please contact CASA on 5441 0430.

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