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Newsflash

JANUARY 2010

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Resignation of Bendigo Loddon PCP Chairperson

Sue Clarke, the Chairperson of the Bendigo Loddon PCP has announced her resignation from the position of Chairperson of the PCP, due to her forthcoming retirement as the CEO of Bendigo Community Health Services in the first half of 2010.

Sue has been a very active member of the PCP since its establishment in 2000 and has been the Chairperson for the past 7 years. Bendigo Community Health Services has been the employer of the PCP staff and Sue has supported four Executive Officers over this time. Sue has provided leadership to the Executive Committee and ensured that the PCP has met its Service Agreement deliverables and achieved great partnership outcomes within the Greater Bendigo and Loddon areas.

Sue will stand down as Chair at the February Meeting of the PCP Executive Committee and will retire from BCHS by June. A new Chairperson for the Bendigo Loddon PCP will be elected by the Executive Committee at its meeting on Friday 19 February 2010.

New Governance Arrangements for PCPs

A letter has been received from Ms Maree Guyatt, Director Integrated Care at the Department of Health. Ms Guyatt has advised the PCP Chairperson and PCP members, of new governance arrangements which will be implemented for PCPs in Victoria this year. Part of the letter is published here for your information:

"I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the review of Primary Care Partnership (PCP) governance arrangements. The Secretary has approved PCPs transitioning to more formal governance arrangements by 30th June 2010. As a minimum requirement, each PCP will require a formal governance body to govern and operate the PCP, together with a legally binding partnering agreement providing for members accountability to each other.

The process for reviewing PCP governance arrangements began over eighteen months ago. The review was undertaken in response to issues raised by PCP Chairs arising from the relatively informal way in which PCP members commit to cooperate.

More formal governance arrangements with clear business rules can provide:

- increased accountability of members to each other;
- greater clarity in PCP operation and governance; and
- improved clarity regarding use and holding of funds and property and employment of staff.

The Victorian PCP strategy is well recognised across state and national health departments in progressing service system integration. There is increasing commitment across government programs to build on the strategy and to invest in PCPs. Feedback from funding bodies indicated more robust governance arrangements would potentially facilitate further investment in PCPs."

This decision by the Department of Health fits nicely with the recent governance review that was undertaken by our PCP Executive Committee and facilitated by Consultants Dr Ronelle Hutchinson and Kellie King. The Executive Committee will be reviewing the Report provided by the Consultants at its meeting in February, and will identify how these recommendations might fit with the governance requirements of the Department. More information will be provided in the next Newsflash.

Capacity Building/Workforce Development Plan

One of the strategies of the Bendigo Loddon Strategic Plan is the **production of a Workforce Development/Capacity Building Plan** for staff of PCP member organisations. In order to make sure that the PCP funds for Capacity Building are used in a way to benefit the majority of members, we will conduct a survey of potential workforce development/capacity building activities and those with the most support will be included in the 2010 Plan.

If you have any ideas about some of the professional development programs that could be of value to your own, and other member organisations, please email blpcp@bchs.com.au with your suggestions. We would need to receive all suggestions by 19 February 2010.

Connectingcare and E-referral Traffic

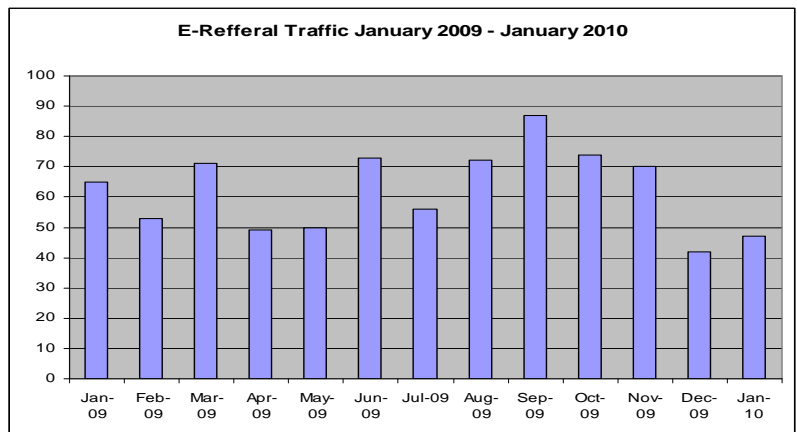
During the past month the following organisations have sent and/or received e-referrals through Connectingcare.com:

Sent e-referrals

- Bapcare
- Bendigo Health
- Commonwealth Carelink Centre
- Inglewood & Districts Health Service
- Loddon Shire Council
- St Luke's

Received e-referrals

- Bendigo Health (HART/ACAS, Diabetes Education Services, Referral Centre and Rural Health Team)
- St Luke's - Recovery Focused Mental Health Service (Whirrakee)



You will see that the number of e-referrals in January this year is significantly less than those sent in January 2009. The numbers of e-referrals is one of the performance indicators for Service Coordination by the Department of Health.

Women's Health Week 2010

As part of Women's Health Week, Women's Health Loddon Mallee will be running **Considering Gender and Mental Health**, in conjunction with Women's Health Victoria.

Date: Tuesday 2 March 2010
Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm
Cost: \$25 per participant
Venue: St Andrew's Church Hall, Myers Street, Bendigo

Bookings
Essential

Considering Gender and Mental Health will cover:

- Why is gender important in mental health?
- DHS Gender and Diversity lens.
- Case Study: Mental health related hospitalisation and gender.
- Depression: A gender analysis.

The workshops are designed for professionals working in a range of areas including health and social policy; health promotion and community development; health and support services; women's health and community health, and mental health.

For further details, enquiries or bookings, please contact Robyn Doyle or Chris Kyle Link, Women's Health Loddon Mallee on 5443 0233.



'Sexual Health Awareness Month' Calendar of Events

In an effort to raise community awareness of sexual health, the Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership's Sexual Health Task Group is facilitating the region's second 'Sexual Health Awareness Month' (SHAM). The campaign will run from **Monday 15 February – Monday 15 March 2010** and will incorporate a range of community events and programs.

Date	Co-ordinating Organisation	Event Info	Contact Person
15 February - 15 March	Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS)	Pap/STI Clinic	Louise Holland Ph 5448 1600
	Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership (BLPCP)	Pap-screen advertising to be shown during Bendigo Cinema's movie previews	Jenna Long Ph 5448 1682
	Mclvor Health and Community Services (MH & CS)	Test me (www.testme.org.au) information campaign including local events; pool party and youth program and information displayed at Heathcote's monthly market Health Promotion stand	Nancy Cutlack Ph 5431 0932
	Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) and Bendigo Regional Institute of Tafe (BRIT)	Sexual Health information to be included in BRIT's student orientation packs	Louise Holland Ph 5448 1600
16 February 2.00-7.00pm	Inglewood and Districts Health Service (IDHS)	Pap Test Clinic 3 Hospital Street, Inglewood	Bookings essential Ph 5431 7000
17 February 2.00-7.00pm	Inglewood and Districts Health Service (IDHS)	Pap Test Clinic 24 Wilson Street, Wedderburn	Bookings essential Ph 5431 7000
17 February	Northern Districts Community Health Services	Women's Health Clinic in Boort	Alexia Stephens or Claire Gillen to make a booking Ph 5451 0200
18 February 10.00am-1.00pm	Inglewood and Districts Health Service (IDHS)	Inglewood community information and resource stall at Champion IGA	Ph 5431 7000
19 February 7.30-9.00am	Wedderburn Neighbourhood House	Men's Healthy Breakfast at Wedderburn with Peter Strange from Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS)	Bookings essential Ph 5494 3489
22-25 February	Country Awareness Network (CAN)	Information and resource stall at Latrobe University during 'O' week	Adam Wright Ph 5443 2299
	Latrobe University	Showbags' being distributed during 'O' week including resources from CAN, CERSH, Test me and the Sexual Health Services Guide	Terri Meehan-Andrews Ph 5444 7550
23 February 1.00-5.30pm	Inglewood and Districts Health Service (IDHS)	Pap Test clinic 3 Hospital Street, Inglewood	Bookings essential Ph 5431 7000
24th Feb	Bendigo Senior Secondary College	Sexual Health Awareness Day	Angela Walsh-Edgar Ph 5443 1222
2 March 6:30pm	Central Victorian General Practice Network (CVGPN)	Professional Development for GP's 'Antenatal care and complications in pregnancy'	Cheryl Martin Ph 5441 7806
4 March 10.00am-1.00pm	Inglewood and Districts Health Service (IDHS)	Wedderburn community information and resource stall at Randall's Foodworks	Ph 5431 7000
10 March	Inglewood and Districts Health Service (IDHS)	Free Breastscreen bus departing Wedderburn, Korong Vale, Inglewood and Bridgewater	Ph 5431 7000
23 March	Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS)	Professional Development Seminar 'Sexual health and people with disabilities'	Louise Holland Ph 5448 1600



Sustainable Farm Families

The Sustainable Farm Families (SFF) program focuses on improving the physical and mental health of farm families. SFF covers a wide range of areas including cardiovascular disease, cancer, stress, diabetes, women and men's health, farm safety, nutrition, physical activity, anxiety and depression.

Workshops are run to develop the knowledge of farmers regarding their own health with a focus on what practical steps can be taken to improve the lives of farm families, whilst also considering the farm business. All participants receive health assessments as an important part of the workshop.

SFF commenced in 2003 and has been successful with over 2,000 farmers across Australia participating. The SFF program is driven by the belief that personal health is the most important part of the farm business. Farmers are responsible for the continuing success of SFF by helping to shape the project, therefore it is highly relevant to farm family needs.

A SFF workshop will be held at Bridgewater Memorial Hall on 20 and 21 April 2010. This will be followed up by a further 1½ days in April 2011 and ½ day 2012. Bookings essential - maximum 26 people. For more information contact Jenny Boromeo, Diabetes Educator/Community Health Nurse Inglewood & Districts Health Service on 5431 7000 or jboromeo@idhs.vic.gov.au.

Two Day Facilitator Training in No Bull (NB) Support

**Are you keen to help the people in your community who support others?
The Bouverie Centre is offering a free course in how to facilitate NB Support Workshops**

"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 will I be learning to facilitate?

'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. 'No Bull Support' aims to provide training and skill development on how to engage with distressed people and conduct conversations on tough topics related to extreme personal difficulties; various ways of supporting someone in trouble; when and how to provide referral options; and attending to oneself and one's own family during tough times.

Who should attend: Workers or volunteers in community organisations who have experience in Community Development, Education, Group Work and/or Counselling; are willing and able to complete the 2-day 'No Bull Support' Facilitators' Training and can commit to hosting at least one 4-hour 'No Bull Support' workshop in their community over the next six months for groups comprising workers and volunteers involved in drought response or bushfire recovery efforts.

When: Monday and Tuesday 22 and 23 February from 9.30am to 4.30pm (lunch provided)

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

Parking: Limited onsite parking available

Cost: **FREE!!**

RSVP: Contact Christine Neil c.neil@latrobe.edu.au for a registration form by Monday 8 February 2010.

International Federation on Ageing 10th Global Conference

Melbourne 3 to 6 May 2010

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 4 February 2010

Visit www.ifa2010.org for further details

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