



**eNews**

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

9 July 2008

Level 5, Health Sciences 2  
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY VIC 3086

**Ph:** (03) 9479 5827  
**Fax:** (03) 9479 5977

[info@healthissuescentre.org.au](mailto:info@healthissuescentre.org.au)  
[www.healthissuescentre.org.au](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

### Policy News

#### Consumer Views on Health Priorities

The results of a small-scale consultation across four states around the future of health care in Australia have just been released by Health Issues Centre on behalf of the Australian Health Care Reform Alliance. The main criteria identified by consumers for judging the health system were access, equity and a stronger focus on prevention.

For further information go to our [website](#)

### Project News

#### Our Project Influences Policy Change

Following our Newborn Screening Project conducted in 2005, the Newborn Screening Review Committee submitted a report to the Victorian Minister for Health in 2006. The report presented a number of recommendations around informed written consent for testing of newborn babies and access to, and retention of, Guthrie cards.

A Working Group for a Newborn Screening Written Consent Pilot Project has now been established by the Victorian Department of Human Services and Health Issues Centre has been invited to join it. Through this pilot project, a written consent framework will be developed, implemented and evaluated within at least two maternity hospitals in Victoria.

The project aims to assess:

- how written consent for newborn screening could be implemented in maternity hospitals;
- the impact on the maternity hospital workforce;
- whether written consent will impact on the uptake of the newborn screening test; and
- how written consent will impact on the work and related costs of the newborn screening laboratory.

The working group will bring together experts to develop a draft written consent process, provide advice regarding the project implementation deliverables, and to identify and manage risks as they arise. The group will also provide advice on policy implications and make recommendations about the potential rollout of a written consent framework within the Victorian context.

### New on our website

Recent additions to the Victorians Participate in Health page include:

#### Resources

[A person-centered communication and reflection model: sharing decision making in chronic care](#)

[Improving shared decision making in osteoarthritis](#)

[Patient and public involvement in clinical trials](#)

[Organisational self-assessment and planning tool for consumer and community participation](#)

## Practice examples

[Achieving organisational change: Findings from case studies of 20 California healthy cities and communities coalitions](#)

[A tale of two health literacies: Public health and clinical approaches to health literacy](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### A Place Of Our Own

Our Consumer Place is Victoria's first consumer-run resource centre for mental health consumer developed initiatives. We believe this initiative is one of the most exciting to emerge from the consumer movement. Thanks to the decades of activism and creativity of the consumer movement, the wisdom of the Victorian Department of Human Services in funding this initiative and Ourcommunity for their auspice, consumers are truly doing it for themselves.

The Our Consumer Place website is about to 'go live'. Click here to visit Our Consumer Place for a sneak preview: <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/consumer/index>

Here you will find:

- resources for consumer groups just starting out;
- resources for organisations becoming more formalised;
- a clearing house of articles books and website links; and
- a searchable directory of groups that will be built over time.

We urge you to register now to become a member of Our Consumer Place by clicking on <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/consumer/becomeamember>. You can become an individual member or list your consumer group in our directory. All of this is free. Consumer members can be involved in on line discussions, in the further development of our website, access training, contributing to our newsletter, just to name a few. All members will receive our electronic newsletter and other updates: out soon!

## DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED

### Williamson Community Leadership Program

Leadership Victoria invites applications for its unique leadership program that sees participants spending a year behind closed doors engaging with a remarkable cross-section of today's leaders, hearing and challenging frank opinions and concerns and learning from the experiences of peers and people at the peak of their careers.

A limited number of candidates are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and are selected on merit. They must have the support of their organisation. **Nominations for 2009 close 31 August 2008.**

For further information go to [www.leadershipvictoria.org](http://www.leadershipvictoria.org) or contact Leadership Victoria, Ph: (03) 9651 6590, Email: [info@leadershipvictoria.org](mailto:info@leadershipvictoria.org)

### ExperienceBank Program

Leadership Victoria invites nominations for an exciting community leadership initiative for people over 50. ExperienceBank provides people with a avenue to use their professional skills to make a difference by being a mentor, a board member or project advisor for a non profit organisation. The program comprises of seven orientation sessions and a guide placement service.

For further information contact Leadership Victoria. Ph: (03) 9651 6542, Email: [Suzanne@leadershipvictoria.org](mailto:Suzanne@leadershipvictoria.org)

## **Disclosure Regimes and Models of Regulation for Charities and Not-for-profit Organisations**

A Senate Inquiry is now underway into the disclosure regimes and models of regulation for charities and not-for-profit organisations. On 18 June 2008, the Senate referred the Disclosure regimes for Charities and not-for-profit organisations to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics for report by the last sitting day of November 2008. The Inquiry will examine:

1. The relevance and appropriateness of current disclosure regimes for charities and all other not-for-profit organisations.
2. Models of regulation and legal forms that would improve governance and management of charities and not-for-profit organisations and cater for emerging social enterprises.
3. Other measures that can be taken by government and the not-for-profit sector to assist the sector to improve governance, standards, accountability and transparency in its use of public and government funds.

*For further information about the Inquiry and how you can make a submission go to:*

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics\\_ctte/charities\\_08/info.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/charities_08/info.htm)

**Submissions will close on 29 August 2008.**

## **National eHealth Strategy**

The National eHealth and Information Principal Committee (NEHIPC), on behalf of the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC), has commissioned Deloitte to develop a National eHealth Strategy. This is an important piece of work that will seek to:

1. Provide a vision for and desired outcomes of national action in eHealth over the next five to ten years.
2. Identify priorities and next steps for development and implementation of a national eHealth system.
3. Provide advice on the governance arrangements needed to oversee and manage national eHealth projects and infrastructure.

Peak bodies, professional associations and any other parties are invited to respond to a survey to provide input into the National eHealth Strategy. There is also the opportunity to upload a submission at the end of the survey, if you would like to do so.

The survey can be found at: <https://www.deloittedtermine.com/NationalE-HealthStrategy>

## **Because Mental Health Matters**

The Victorian Minister for Mental Health recently released the *Because Mental Health Matters* consultation paper that outlines the new vision for Victoria's mental health services and proposes priorities for action and possible solutions to identified needs.

The paper is available in two forms:

Summary

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/reformstrategy/mhmatters.pdf>

Full paper

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/reformstrategy/mhmatters-rep08.pdf>

A fact sheet is also available:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/reformstrategy/mhmatters.pdf>

A range of consultations are being held in July 2008 and information about these can be found at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/reformstrategy/index.htm>

Written submissions can also be provided. All mental health stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions and say how mental health in Victoria can be improved. As a large volume of submissions is expected, it is requested that whenever possible, people highlight the specific section of the consultation paper or the goal being addressed in their submission. This will assist in analysing responses. Pro formas for each of the Focus Areas are provided to help guide submissions.

*Written submissions should be emailed to: [mhreformstrategy@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:mhreformstrategy@dhs.vic.gov.au) or posted to: Mental Health Reform Strategy, Mental Health and Drugs Division, Department of Human Services, Level 17/50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne Vic 3000*

**The closing date for written submissions is 31 July 2008.**

## **EVENTS OF INTEREST**

### **Engaging Citizens and Australia's Further Health Policy: Building and Applying the Evidence**

Effective citizen engagement requires the involvement of consumers and other citizens in developing health policy about issues that affect them. It was a key commitment emerging from the Australia 2020 Summit. But what does citizen engagement really mean in practice and what about citizens' role in decision making? This AIHPS national forum aims to debate and discuss these questions and how Australian citizens can be more involved in Australia's health.

**When:** 16 September 2008  
**Time:** 9.00 am–5.00 pm  
**Where:** Royal on the Park Hotel, Albert Street, Brisbane, Queensland  
**Cost:** \$140.00  
**Bookings:** Email: [rsvp@aihps.org](mailto:rsvp@aihps.org)

### **Maternal Health, Improving Outcomes**

This seminar will feature two international speakers; Professor Debra Bick, Thames Valley University, UK, who will present on a trial of midwifery/obstetric training to enhance assessment and repair of perineal trauma; and Professor Wendy Sword, McMaster University, Canada, who will present the findings of a Ontario study on post partum health and social service utilisation.

**When:** 16 July 2008  
**Time:** 9.30 am–12.30 pm  
**Where:** The Peppin Merino Room, Ground Floor, Wool House  
369 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria  
**Contact:** Jane Yelland, Ph: (03) 9090 5211 or Renee Paxton (03) 9090 5204

### **Managing the Psychologically Injured Worker: Research, Knowledge and Practice**

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> International Mental Health Conference and is hosted by Mental Health Services in collaboration with Queensland Health, Griffith and Bond Universities.

**When:** 14–16 August 2008  
**Where:** Holiday Inn, Gold Coast, Queensland  
**Contact:** Conference Secretariat, Liz Symmons, Ph: (07) 5528 2501  
**Website:** <http://www.gcimh.com.au/conference/>

## **Insights and Solutions**

This is Brain Injury Australia's second National Conference and will be held in conjunction with Alcohol and other drug Related Brain Injury Australian Services (arbias) second international conference.

**When:** 1–3 September 2008  
**Where:** Sofitel Hotel, Melbourne  
**Contact:** ADF Events, Email: [events@adf.org.au](mailto:events@adf.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.bia.net.au](http://www.bia.net.au)

## **RESOURCES**

### **Multilingual Resources on Mental Health**

Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA) has just released a new series of multilingual fact sheets on mental illness called the "What is..." series. MMHA worked with Vision Australia to adapt the fact sheets for those with vision impairment. Topics include: anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Fact sheets have been translated into 20 languages including Arabic, Farsi, Vietnamese and Greek.

*Fact sheets can be found at:* [www.mmha.org.au/mmha-products/fact-sheets](http://www.mmha.org.au/mmha-products/fact-sheets)

### **Manuals for Community Organisations**

The Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) with the help of the Victorian Law Foundation has produced two manuals for people serving on the committees or boards of Victorian community service organisations including: neighbourhood houses, sporting clubs, self-help groups and tenancy associations. The *Policies and Procedures Manual* covers topics including: policy development; organisational policies (e.g. privacy, ethic and risk management); financial management; and staffing and employment. It also contains sample policies and a useful contact list. *Community Management* examines what community management is, what responsibilities such groups have, how to recruit members, and keep the group going.

*Both manuals are available from VCOSS for \$30.00 plus post and handling.*  
*To order contact VCOSS, Ph: (03) 9654 5050, Email: [vcoss@vcoss.org.au](mailto:vcoss@vcoss.org.au) or go to:*  
<http://www.vcoss.org.au/what-we-do/community-sector/manuals.htm>

**To subscribe or unsubscribe to eNews, contact Diane Lowther at:**  
[d.lowther@healthissuescentre.org.au](mailto:d.lowther@healthissuescentre.org.au)