

# Victorians Participate in Health

## New resources, web links and practice examples added for December 2008

Health Issues Centre with funding from the Victorian Department of Human Services maintains and provides a webpage which contains information about consumer participation in health. Documents focus on Victorian resources - key relevant policy documents, examples of participation in practice, and research on consumer participation.

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### New Resources

#### **Health Voices**

Health Voices is published by the Consumer's Health Forum of Australia three times a year and contains health themes of interest for to health consumers, government and the health sector. Health Voices is freely available online from the Consumer's Health Forum Website.



[http://www.chf.org.au/publications/health\\_voices.asp](http://www.chf.org.au/publications/health_voices.asp)

#### **The power to shape decisions? An exploration of young people's power in participation**

Based on Levin's types of power (Making Social Policy, 1997) the author uses information from interviews with young people, politicians, managers and front-line workers in the UK to explain what types of power each stakeholder group can exercise. Levin describes three types of power: power to do, literally what an individual is actually able to do; power over, the power of a group over another group; and power to achieve, the power to realise one's will. This paper concludes that a clear understanding of power, the culture of the organisation, and the mechanisms used to facilitate participation are important to enhance organisations' policy-making processes.

Published by:  
Health and Social Care in the Community (2008) 16 (3), 253–261

Author:  
Robert Gunn



<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1365-2524.2008.00779.x>

### **New practice examples**

#### **The Blue Card**

The Blue Card: a hand-held health record card for mental health consumers with comorbid physical health risk.  
The article describes the development and implementation of a hand-held records card (the Blue Card) for people affected by mental illness and physical comorbidities.

Published by:  
Australas Psychiatry. 2008 Jun 2:1-6.

Authors:  
Brunero S, Lamon St, Myrtle L and Fairbrother G



<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/section?content=a793647773&fulltext=713240928>

#### **Evaluating the impact of involving young people in developing children's services in an acute hospital trust**

The paper describes how an acute hospital trust involved a youth council comprising 17 young people aged 11-18 years to improve children's service delivery in one NHS trust in the UK. An evaluation workshop took place with 15 members of the youth council and their views are incorporated around three specific areas: evidence that their involvement has improved trust services; barriers to young people's voices being heard in service delivery; what could promote young people's involvement in healthcare services. Whilst the focus of the council was young people, the principles are of use to a wide range of clinical professionals faced with similar challenges.

Published by:  
J Clin Nurs, 2008, Vol 17 (23): 3115-3122.

Authors:  
Coad J, Flay J, Aspinall M, Bilverstone B, Coxhead E and Hones B.



<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19012781?dopt=Abstract>

## New Web links

### **Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA)**

Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA) has released a new series of multilingual fact sheets on mental illness called the 'What Is...' series. These fact sheets are available in over 20 languages and are also available for the blind and those with a vision impairment. These can be downloaded for free from their website



<http://www.mmha.org.au/mmha-products/fact-sheets>

### **The Communication Resource Centre – Scope**

*Nursery Rhymes to Sing See and Sign* are FREE downloadable, web-based communication resources for ALL young children. The resources have a particular focus on communication strategies known to help communication and language development in children with communication difficulties. The resources include a picture song board using Picture Communication Symbols and a Key Word Sign poster (Makaton) for each Nursery Rhyme. A song lyrics sheet highlighting the key signs is also available for each song.

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[http://www.scopevic.org.au/therapy\\_crc\\_r&p\\_nrsss.htm](http://www.scopevic.org.au/therapy_crc_r&p_nrsss.htm)

More resources available on our website [www.healthissuescentre.org.au](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au)

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