



eNews

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

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31 March 2009

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

We would like to apologise for the delay in sending out this first issue of *eNews* for 2009.

Health Issues Centre staff and Board changes

Farewell to Lauren Cordwell

Health Issues Centre would like to congratulate Lauren on her new position at the Royal College of General Practitioners as a Senior Advisor (Health Systems Reform & Safety). Lauren worked with us for five years and will be sadly missed by HIC staff, colleagues at La Trobe University and consumers across Victoria.

Welcome to Julia Byford

Julia Byford, a medical anthropologist with many years' experience in community development, has been appointed as a Senior Project Officer - Consumer Participation. Julia is also the new HIC Consumer Participation Coordinator.

Farewell to Tony McBride

Tony McBride has resigned from the position of CEO, Health Issues Centre. Health Issues Centre staff wish him all the very best for the future and thank him for the positive contribution he has made to HIC over the past six years.

New Board Members

Welcome to our new board members Sophy Athan and Twanny Farrugia. Read their profiles on our website, and see who else is on our Board:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/aboutus/board.shtml>

Resources for consumers and carers launched

Four resources developed by Health Issues Centre were launched in February 2009. Two of these resources aim to support consumers and carers participating in national advisory and reference groups of Cancer Australia. These are a *Consumer Participation Guide* and a *Consumer Training and Mentoring Guide*. These Guides are available at the Cancer Australia website:

<http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/consumer-support-and-information/resources/consumer-participation-resources.aspx>

The other two resources aim to support consumers and carers wanting to establish and manage peer- or led- support groups or networks. These are *Cancer Support Groups: a guide to setting up peer-facilitated supports* and *Cancer Support Groups: a guide for facilitators*. These are available at the Cancer Australia website:

<http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/consumer-support-and-information/resources/cancer-support-group-resources-.aspx>

Development of a comprehensive suite of consumer, carer and community performance indicators for Victorian Health Services

Tony McBride, Lauren Cordwell, Tere Dawson

This first project aims to develop a comprehensive suite of consumer, carer and community performance indicators for Victorian health services. The approach to develop

the indicators will involve a consumer consultation, literature review, mapping exercise and workshop with stakeholders to gain consensus on the final suite of indicators. Two groups co-located with HIC (The Lincoln Centre for Research on Ageing and Quality Improvement and Community Services Accreditation) will collaborate with Health Issues Centre to implement the project. Funding is provided by the Statewide Quality Branch, Department of Human Services. Previous e-newsletters can be read via the links below:

[DHS Indicators project E Newsletter updates October 2008](#)

[DHS Indicators project E Newsletter updates January 2009](#)

[DHS Indicators project E Newsletter updates March 2009](#)

JOURNAL NEWS

A selection of articles from Issue #96, dedicated to Primary Health Care and Issue #97, focussing on Chronic Illness, are available in our website at:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/journals/list-current.shtml>

Please scroll down to find the issue you are interested in. The next issue of *Health Issues* will be focus on Quality and Safety and will be out at the end of April 2009.

CONSUMER PARTICIPATION

Consumer Positions currently available:

- Austin Health Community Advisory Committee
- Department of Human Services, Victorian Infection Control Committee
- Blood Matters Program, Statewide Quality Branch, Department of Human Services
- Southern Health, Technology and Clinical Practice Committee

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/participate/>

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission: 2009 Training Calendar

The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission has released its Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities training calendar for January to June 2009. Places are available for workers in community sector and non-government agencies. Places are strictly limited, so register soon to avoid missing out. Workshops cover the following areas:

- Introducing the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- An Exploration of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- The Advocates' Charter: A tool for individual and systemic discrimination
- From principle to practice: Implementing the human rights based approach in community organisations

Contact: Cameron Brodie

Phone: (03) 9281 7122

Email: education@veohrc.vic.gov.au

Website: For more information, please visit [Workshop descriptions](#) and to register for workshops, please visit: [Training registration](#)

Are you a member of a self help group, resource or support self help groups?

Then this forum is for you! With over 30 years' experience working with self help groups, COSHG is delighted to offer this opportunity for:

- The exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and experience that self help groups contribute to their members, families and society as a whole
- Information exchange across sectors to a diverse range of participants

- Groups to share expertise and knowledge and to learn from the self help group model.

Date: Thursday, 2 April 2009
Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm
Venue: Northcote Town Hall
 189 High Street, Northcote
Cost: Ranging from \$10 to \$45
Contact: Christine McAuslan
Phone: (03) 9349 2301
Email: info@coshg.org.au
Website: [More information and registration](#)
 Visit the [COSHG website](#) to learn more.

Training for consumers and carers on consumer participation and advocacy

CanNET Victoria and Cancer Voices Victoria are holding two training sessions on consumer participation and advocacy for consumers and carers. The sessions are facilitated by Health Issues Centre.

Date: Saturday, 23 and Sunday, 24 May 2009
Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm
Venue: Kilmore Trackside Entertainment Centre,
 Golden Reign Room, East Street, Kilmore
Cost: Free - all meals, accommodation & travel included
Contact: Kate De Bono
Phone: (03) 9496 3804
Email: kate.debono@austin.org.au

POLICY NEWS

Health Issues Centre submitted a response to the Discussion Paper of the Department of Health and Ageing: Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy. To view the full response on our website, please follow the link:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2009/03/266573-upload-00001.pdf>

NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Do CACs actually stop participation?

Victorian Health Services are mandated to establish Community Advisory Committees. Does the existence of the CACs actually lead health services to think they are doing enough about consumer participation? Have your say visit our HIC forum, [click here](#)

A new online community is now available to support people affected by cancer:

New online community www.cancerconnections.com.au is a national Cancer Council site where people can share their stories and connect with others going through a similar cancer experience. The site supports all people affected by cancer including:

- Those newly diagnosed
- Young adults
- Cancer survivors
- Family and friends caring for someone with cancer

People can participate in forums and have 'conversations' with others that can be read by visitors to the site. Blogs (online journals) are also available and can be a place to record and share thoughts, feelings and ideas with others. Every user has their own profile and people can keep their identity anonymous. For more details, please visit www.cancerconnections.com.au or call 13 11 20.

NEW RESOURCES

New resources

New *Victorians Participate in Health* resources, web links and practice examples added for February/March 2009 are:

- Focus on Indigenous Health

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2009/03/266838-upload-00001.doc>

To subscribe or unsubscribe to *eNews*, contact Souzi Markos:
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