

Cultural awareness training breakthrough

RACGP to provide free online course starting end August

Crucial information about cultural awareness training for practices to meet the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive requirements has just come to light. And it's good news!

RACGP will provide an online cultural awareness course free to all its members. This online module will be available by the end of August. It has not yet been confirmed if the free online training extends to practice staff but we'll let you know about this aspect as soon as we do. As you're aware, the minimum requirement is that two people from each practice (one of whom must be a GP) attend RACGP-approved cultural awareness training to be eligible for the PIP incentives.

RACGP will also manage the process for locally developed cultural awareness training to be registered as part of the RACGP's Quality Assurance & Continuing Professional Development Framework.

SGPN will continue design of a face to face course in conjunction with ACT Division of General Practice that will be open to all GPs and practice staff. Our understanding is that standards for locally developed cultural awareness training will be established before the end of September, so local programs such as ours can be submitted and accredited at that time. We anticipate launching this training at our [GP Connect](#) 2010 conference in November.

SGPN's Indigenous Project Officer Robin Vote reports that information about the PBS co-payment has reached the Aboriginal communities who are very keen for their local practices to join the PIP. And now the cultural awareness training is sorted out, there's never been a better time to register. Call or [email](#) Robin at our Goulburn office on 4821 0436 for more information. And there's lots of great information (factsheets and a more detailed document) at the links below.

Links we love

www.yourhealth.com.au – all about the **National Health Reforms**

www.nps.org.au Independent, not-for-profit and evidence based, the NPS enables better decisions about medicines and tests.

Indigenous PIP Health Incentive Q&A (comprehensive, indexed)

Indigenous PIP Health Incentive SGPN factsheet (2 pages)

Indigenous PIP PBS Co-payment SGPN factsheet (1 page)

www.nswrdn.com.au **Need a locum?** NSW RDN can help... find out the [costs](#) and [submit a request](#).

Collabs learning workshop: lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention

Practices participating in the local collaborative have the opportunity to attend a full day learning workshop on Saturday 21 August in Barton. The workshop theme is lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention and we have a stellar lineup of speakers on the day including Dr Dale Ford, Dr Garry Egger and Professor Prasuna Reddy.

Remember Gutbusters? Dr Gary Egger developed the hugely successful program in 1991, the first of its kind to be widely reported in scientific literature.

Gary is Professor of Lifestyle Medicine and Health Promotion at Southern Cross University. He has post-graduate qualifications in behavioural biology and epidemiology. He has worked in preventive health for over 35 years in government, industry and privately, and has consulted for the World Health Organisation and several national and regional governments in his specialty of lifestyle medicine.

More speaker profiles next week. Meanwhile, if you'd like to discuss the benefits of participating in the local collaborative, please call or [email](#) Virginia in our practice support team.

Enhanced support to NSW GPs for syphilis management and surveillance

In response to continued high rates of infectious syphilis predominately amongst men who have sex with men, NSW Health recently initiated a new approach to syphilis surveillance and management support.

For GPs who do not often manage syphilis, a specialist from your local sexual health service will now call you to offer assistance with care, treatment, contact tracing and completion of surveillance reports.

This new collaboration between NSW public health units and public sexual health services aims to provide a timelier and better understanding of syphilis, connect GPs with local sexual health services and contribute to public health responses to syphilis. There's more information [here](#) or call the NSW Sexual Health Information Line 1800 451 624.

Infection control update

Do you need to do a leak rate test on your sterilizer?

Marjen's June newsletter offers excellent advice about leak rate testing your sterilizer. Some types of Class S cycle sterilizers operate with a vacuum to assist air removal/drying – did you know that a leak rate test cycle is required either daily or weekly? Click [here](#) for the full newsletter.

What's on? Education and events for GPs, PNs and practice staff

'The Accidental Counsellor' *August 3 & 4, Merimbula*
Workers who are not employed as counsellors often find themselves placed in a counselling role. A two-day course presented by the Centre for Community Welfare Training. Click [here](#) for more information or go to www.acwa.asn.au.

Family Planning NSW Annual Conference and Open Day
Saturday, 14 August, Family Planning NSW offices at 328-336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield. Get the latest information on reproductive and sexual health in just one day. \$175 and 13 Category 2 points. Click [here](#) for information and registration.

Depression and dementia in later life *Wednesday 11 August, Southern Cross Club Woden.* Professor Brian Draper for Alzheimer's Australia will address the distinction between depression and mild dementia, features that suggest depression and dementia coexist, and management strategies for depression in persons with dementia. More info [here](#).

Aged and Dementia Care Symposium *Friday 22 October, Batemans Bay.* SGPN is co-hosting this full-day education event with GSAHS, Alzheimer's Australia and the NSW Government. Nursing and Allied Health CPD hours: 7. Medical: 10 Category 2 points with RACGP and 5 PDP points with ACCRM. Here's a [link](#) to the program and registration form on our website. Alzheimer's Australia is managing the registrations.

Save the date! Local Primary Care Collaborative Workshop: Lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention *Saturday 21 August, Canberra.* Turn the page for more info.

Cancer Learning is an online professional development website designed specifically for health care professionals working in cancer care. Visit www.cancerlearning.gov.au.

More Federal funding available

Funding applications for round five of the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program are now open. The NRRHIP aims to improve access to funding for essential health infrastructure, equipment and service planning for rural and remote communities.

This program differs to the GP Superclinics funding pool in offering funding for equipment as well as infrastructure. It also favours improving facilities to assist in training registrars and students.

Here's a [link](#) or visit www.health.gov.au and search NRRHIP.

NRRHIP is a very competitive funding round but SGPN has an established track record in successfully assisting local practices to obtain the grants. Call Linda Brown on 44745100 if you'd like to discuss the possibilities for your practice. Applications close at 2pm on 30 September 2010.

What we did this week... (a little slice of SGPN life)

Workforce Officer Sue Berry hosted a CPD event in Batemans Bay where 6 local GPs heard St Vincents Hospital rehabilitation specialist Dr Jo Braid speak about back pain. Sue says there was terrific interaction between Dr Braid and the GPs resulting in a very beneficial and educational evening.

Our conference crew (Sue B, Kellee M and Linda B) continue work on the organisational tour de force (☺) that is GP Connect 2010 – our joint conference for ACT Division of General Practice happening in Canberra on the weekend of 12-14 November. You would have received a very nice postcard by now. And there's a [website](#) too.

A Healthy for Life combined advisory group meeting was held in Bermagui last Thursday. Community members from the Bega Valley and the Eurobodalla had lots of great ideas for the future of the program and a casual lunch afterwards finished off a fantastic day.

Our Finance teamsters Carol and Jacquie made it through the end of financial year ruckus, relatively unscathed we believe.

Disappointed we were ☹. Didn't get the required numbers for the Business Plans by Stealth workshop set down for this Saturday in Canberra. As this has been classified as a Category 1 event we plan to run the workshop later in the year either as an individual workshop or as part of the GP Connect conference to be held in November.

SGPN recommends...

Time efficient education with NPS

SGPN, in partnership with the National Prescribing Service (NPS), is now offering a program on best practice for management options to maximise sleep.

This program is delivered by our NPS facilitator, pharmacist Jo McMahon. Jo says the program provides GPs with an opportunity to discuss practical, evidence-based information about the causes of insomnia and to consider behavioural and cognitive therapies. Participants will also learn about the use of hypnotic medicines and to minimise their potential harms by engaging patient/carers in managing sleep difficulties.

This is time efficient education with eligibility for RACGP QA & CPD and/or ACCRM program points. Jo will visit you in your practice – allow 30 minutes – or she can organise a one-hour case study discussion with peers, again at a time and place convenient to you. Medical students, practice nurses, pharmacists & allied health professionals may also participate.

To participate, please [email](#) Jo and indicate your time and date preferences or give her a call on 0438 435552 or 1800 088218.