

## Super result: Jindy primary health centre to proceed \$5 million funding secured

The Jindabyne community enthusiastically welcomed Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon and local member Mike Kelly when they came to town last Friday to announce \$5 million for a primary health care centre.

Together with Snowy River Shire Council, GSAHS, the local Health Council and local general practitioners, we have worked for more than four years to lobby State and Federal Governments for funding to establish a community primary health facility in Jindabyne.

The \$5 million will construct the facility, set up the practice and pay key staff for the first three years, after which time we aim for the practice to be self-funding. We hope to open the doors by the end of 2012.

The proposal is that Snowy River Shire Council will own the facility built on council land in the CBD. SGPN Business Solutions will set up and manage the health centre as a walk-in-walk-out practice. GPs, private and public allied health, imaging and pathology will be accommodated in the facility.

“We envisage the new health centre will...also address workforce issues in the future”

The funding, of course, will be subject to the Labor government being re-elected. We will this week be lobbying the Liberal candidate for Eden Monaro to secure the coalition's commitment to the funding.

SGPN was instrumental in encouraging Snowy River Shire Council to submit a joint application subsequent to the announcement by the Federal Government of 26 Superclinic sites around Australia.

We envisage the new health centre will increase integrated health care delivery in Jindabyne and also address workforce issues in the future as GPs and allied health workers are increasingly attracted to joining well managed walk-in-walk-out facilities.

Our thanks go to the Hon Dr Mike Kelly for his persistence in supporting the application and bringing it (repeatedly!) to the Minister's attention.

## Collabs learning workshop: Lifestyle medicine vs Federal election

Yes, yes, we know its polling day but that shouldn't stop practices participating in the local collaborative attending a full day learning workshop on Saturday 21 August in Barton. You really should attend because:

- *The workshop theme is lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention.*
- *There's a stellar speaker lineup including Dr Dale Ford, Dr Garry Egger and Professor Prasuna Reddy.*
- *10 Category 2 points through RACGP and 5 PDP points through ACRRM are on offer. PNs attending will attract 5 RCNA (3LP) CNE points.*
- *New South Welshpeople attending can beat the polling day queues and organise a Postal Vote because they will be travelling interstate (NSW to ACT). Bonus! Postal Vote Hotline 1300 659 730.*

Professor Prasuna Reddy is Chair of Rural Mental Health and Director of Research at Deakin University. She is a practising health and organisational psychologist and her areas of expertise are applied psychology in health systems and professional ethics. She is a member of the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Department of Human Services Victoria, the Deputy Editor of the Australian Journal of Rural Health, and serves on the board of Antares, a humanitarian aid organisation.

Professor Reddy is also co-ordinator of the Ethics Law and Professional Development program at Deakin University School of Medicine and Director of Training for the Life! Taking action on diabetes program, a joint initiative of the Victorian Government and Diabetes Australia – Victoria.

If you'd like to book or if you'd like to discuss the benefits of participating in the local collaborative, please call or [email](mailto:email) Virginia in our practice support team.

## Links we love

[www.yourhealth.com.au](http://www.yourhealth.com.au) – all about the **National Health Reforms**

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

[www.gpconnect.com.au](http://www.gpconnect.com.au) Get thee to our annual conference!

Funding applications for round five of the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program are now open. Here's a [link](#) or visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and search NRRHIP.

## 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](http://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.

## SGPN recommends...

### Accredited ear irrigation training for PNs

SGPN's Sharon King attended a legal day recently where it was strongly recommended that PNs be trained in ear irrigation by an accredited body. "When it comes to ear irrigation, Sharon says, "you are essentially working outside your scope of practice unless you have completed an accredited course."

Sharon has identified a course with The Benchmark Group and will run it locally if she can get the numbers – fifteen PNs are required as a minimum.

The ten hour course, for 6 CPD/CNE points, includes self directed learning and one day of delivery including lecture, demonstration and practical workshop sessions prior to assessment taking place. The cost of the course is \$325 per participant and the location will be determined subject to the majority of responses.

To register your interest, please [email](#) or call Sharon at our Goulburn office on 02 4821 0434.

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

The big event of our week was an SGPN planning day last Friday to discuss primary health care reform and where and how we fit into it. The workshop comprised 12 participants including senior SGPN staff and two Directors - and was conducted by an independent facilitator. Some of the workshop aims were to:

- Share ideas and identify broad opportunities and challenges for SGPN and partner organisations to support primary health care delivery in this reform environment.
- Identify priority areas for further consideration for SGPN and partner organisations in improving the health of our population.
- Develop strategic directions for SGPN, including transition needs and communicating reforms and developments to key stakeholders.

It was a productive day and outcomes are currently being explored and discussed with other stakeholders. More soon.

## Better Choices, Better Health NPS Nurse update online now

The latest issue of [Nurse Update](#), produced by NPS - Better choices, Better health, is online now. Nurse Update is a digest of evidence based information to help you improve your knowledge of medicines use and prescribing practices. Topics covered in this issue include opioid use in chronic pain and codeine changes.

The link above will take you there, or go to [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au) and search for Nurse Update.

## New mental health, drug and alcohol services in Goulburn

SGPN has welcomed funding through the GP NSW Mental Health Shared Care project to engage a Shared Care Clinical and Service Coordinator in Goulburn.

The coordinator will work within general practices to deliver clinical treatment and management. They will also have designated non-clinical time to meet with and engage mental health and drug and alcohol services to improve the protocols and pathways between services and to develop models of shared care.

Many mental health and drug and alcohol patients managed in primary care have complex needs often requiring coordinated and shared care across a number of clinical and service providers. This project aims to provide improved coordination and referral between general practice, mental health services and drug and alcohol services.

SGPN will advertise the position next week.