

## Local Hospital Networks:

SGPN CEO Sam Ireland discusses the proposed boundaries announced by NSW Health.

As part of the Federal Government's health reforms and the formation of Local Health and Hospitals Network (LHHNs), the Council of Australian Governments will agree at its December meeting on the size range and geography of networks. The LHHNs are to be established as separate State statutory authorities. (It is, however, my understanding that both WA and ACT will not review their hospital system).

NSW Health last week released their discussion paper on implementing the Federal Government's health and hospitals network in NSW, including the boundaries for LHHNs.

The proposed strategy details how LHHNs will comprise between one and four hospitals in most networks, with regional networks potentially including more small hospitals. In consultation with local communities, States will have the flexibility to determine the regional, rural and remote network structures that best meet the needs of these communities and best take into account the challenges of managing multiple small hospitals. This will include deciding whether to incorporate smaller regional and remote hospitals within larger LHHNs, or whether to create further Networks.

In this way, LHHNs will avoid the fragmentation and duplication that would come from individual hospitals operating independently from each other, and also avoid the centralised controls and excess layers of bureaucracy that characterise some systems. This has been formalised by the following plan:

- A State-wide transition group has been formed within NSW Health, led by Geoff Barnden.
- NSW Health is reviewing the viability of size of networks by geographic distribution. Likely to be 17 networks in NSW.
- A network needs at least one Level 5 facility able to deliver care - in GSAHS there is one Level 5, Wagga Wagga.
- Discussion about boundaries is taking place, e.g. health sites that may naturally feed into Albury; those that feed into Wagga, and the South Coast as another network.
- Current State boundaries will remain.
- Deadline for describing and declaring the networks is 31 December 2010.
- An important consideration for this group is the establishment of the Primary Health Care Organisations and likely boundaries.

The proposed Southern NSW (SGPN area) LHHN includes: Batemans Bay, Bega, Bombala, Braidwood, Cooma, Crookwell Delegate, Goulburn, Moruya, Pambula, Queanbeyan, Yass. ACT may be part of the LHHN in the future. This arrangement does not include Young and Harden, which are planned to be part of the Murrumbidgee LHHN.

Here's a [link](#) to the NSW Health report. SGPN will be responding to this and the AGPN [Cranny Report](#) on the proposed PHCO (Medicare Local) boundaries following discussions with our membership and other stakeholders over coming weeks.

## Links we're lovin...

[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.

[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!

### Closing the Gap:

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)

Indigenous PIP [Medicare](#) forms and guidelines

Best Closing the Gap link of all: SGPN's Indigenous Project Officer Robin Vote by [email](#) or phone our Goulburn office on 4821 0436.

## What's the problem?!

Why aren't you attending our lifestyle modification and chronic disease medicine workshop on Saturday 21 August? We have secured excellent speakers, a great venue, its free, you'll earn CPD points, and it gives you something to do on election day. But seriously, it takes considerable effort and cost to host these Primary Care Collaborative events. Please come along, even if you're not part of the Primary Care Collaborative. If we don't get numbers there's a high risk we won't be able continue these collab education events. Details over the page in the Events bit.

## Quality Prescribing Initiative: the year ahead

A reminder from our NPS facilitator Jo McMahon about the 2010-2011 Quality Prescribing Initiative Planner. It lists NPS educational activities for doctors for the coming year and is available [here](#) on SGPN's website or visit the National Prescribing Service at [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au). Each FTE GP needs to complete an average of three activities per annum.

## Clinical audits

Each participating GP must complete a Clinical Audit as one of their three QPI activities. The 2010-11 [clinical e-audits](#) are:

- Optimising management of type 2 diabetes | Up to April 2011
- Review of proton pump inhibitor (PPI) prescribing | Up to April 2011
- Management of hypertension | Oct 2010 – April 2011

## QPI PIP payments...not so tricky

It seems many of you are eligible for the QPI PIP payment but don't claim it. Here's a [brochure](#) about it. Practice Managers may like to use the [QPI Planner](#) to track these activities. Call or [email](#) Jo McMahon direct on 0438 435 552 if you have any queries about QPI activities.

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

**Lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention** *Saturday 21 August, 9am-3.30pm, The Boathouse, Canberra.* Hosted by SGPN, this free education event features three experts in the field of lifestyle medicine, Dr Garry Egger, Dr Dale Ford and Prof Prasuna Reddy. To book or for more information [email](mailto:info@sgpn.com.au) or call Virginia Voce in our practice support team on 4474 5100.

**National Stroke Foundation – Guidelines for Best Practice** *13 September, Whale Motor Inn Narooma.* SGPN is hosting a CPD dinner meeting with a presentation by St Vincents Hospital rehab specialist Dr Josephine Braid. Bookings to Sue Berry, [email](mailto:info@sgpn.com.au) or phone 4474 5100.

**GP Connect 2010** *12-14 November, Hotel Realm Canberra.* SGPN's joint conference with ACT Division of General Practice. Partnering with ANU Rural Medical School and RACGP, the program is shaping up to be a cracker. Visit the website for more information [www.gpconnect.com.au](http://www.gpconnect.com.au).

**Aged and Dementia Care Symposium** *Friday 22 October, Batemans Bay.* SGPN is co-hosting this full-day education event with GSAHS, Alzheimers 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. For further information and registrations contact Alzheimer's Australia NSW Education Services on 02 8875 4653.

**SARHNI Update (Sexual and Reproductive Health Nursing Update, formerly known as the Gynaecology Nursing Update)** *27 October 2010, 9am-3.30pm, Monte Pio Hunter Valley Motor Inn, Rutherford.* Family Planning NSW is hosting its annual one-day sexual health update for nurses and midwives. Full program is available [here](http://www.familyplanning.org.au).

## SGPN recommends...

### Infection control guru

Our practice nursing coordinator Sharon King says Lin Lohead is THE infection control guru and she's running two online courses in instrument sterilisation procedures that would be perfect for practice nurses.

Visit Lin's website [www.linlohead.com](http://www.linlohead.com) or find the link among other useful practice nursing resources on SGPN's [website](http://www.sgpn.com.au).

### Nurse registration

And while we have your attention, click [here](http://www.sgpn.com.au) for all the information you'll need about national registration, how it works and what nurses should be doing.

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

Our new lifestyle modification programs are really starting to come together now. The childhood obesity prevention program Go4FunMEND is ready to start in Bega, although we're still taking referrals for children aged 7-13 in the unhealthy weight range. Numbers are still a little low in the Eurobodalla but we secured some good media coverage this week and we hope to boost our numbers and start very soon. GPs...here's [more information](http://www.sgpn.com.au) about the program for you and your patients.

Meanwhile, seven practices are in the process of signing up for our lifestyle modification program aimed at improving the health of 40-49 year olds and/or 15-54 year old indigenous patients. 20 eligible referrals are all that's required to get a \$500 incentive payment from SGPN. More information from Malindey Sorrell on 4474 5100.

## Need a practice nurse?

We are aware of an experienced and motivated registered nurse looking for full time work in general practice in the Eurobodalla area. Phone Laura Dunbar on 0488 368 082.

For information about the benefits of employing a practice nurse, visit our [website](http://www.sgpn.com.au) or call our Practice Nursing Coordinator Sharon King at the Goulburn office - 4812 0434.

There's also the Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) website, which has lots of resources, including a [practice nurse recruitment and orientation pack](http://www.sgpn.com.au).

## ANU Med Student Rural Week: meet the up and comers!

We are all acutely aware of the persistent shortage of GPs in rural and remote areas. So – as you will also be aware – it is "Rural Week" next week and many ANU medical students are out and about in our regions.

SGPN is hosting two events next week, in Cooma and the Eurobodalla, to introduce the visiting students to our local GPs and you are all invited and encouraged (urged even!) to attend.

The first is a dinner at the Royal Hotel in Cooma on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> (start time 6.30-7pm). The second is a lunch (12-2pm) upstairs at the Broulee Surf Club for the Eurobodalla GPs.

You will no doubt have received your invitations. However, if not, just let our Education and Workforce Officer Sue Berry know you will be coming along ([email](mailto:info@sgpn.com.au) or 4474 5100).

Both of these events are social and fun and will be a great way to chat with our up and coming medical professionals and encourage them to become a general practitioner in rural NSW.