

Political uncertainty doesn't equal the status quo

CEO Sam Ireland discusses the Federal election fallout on health issues

Just because of the uncertainty of the political situation and a minority government, it doesn't necessarily follow that the reform of healthcare can't proceed. More than ever we are aware of access problems and inequity in our health system.

Health has become vital to overall Government performance at the national level and a key factor in voting behaviours in Australia and of government legitimacy in the states and territories.

The reasons are manifold. For example: the control of health care costs is now considered a key tenet for broader economic stability and growth of societies as well as a component of competitiveness of national economies; more general practice and primary care services are required to address the burdening costs of chronic disease and workforce shortage.

Workforce shortages and GP time constraints make chronic disease management health promotion, prevention and implementing care planning difficult. This is problematic given the ageing population and increasing prevalence of chronic conditions.

A number of key health care challenges require a re-thinking of care delivery models for people with chronic disease. Is collaboration, paid coordination time and more timely access to services the answer? Addressing the issues of chronic care will need to ensure GPs are supported to undertake coordination and care planning, effective communication between providers, and less duplication of assessment and service provision for patients.

Links we're lovin...

[Healthy Kids Checks](#) – all the information you need for the four year old health check, Items 709 and 711

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

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

www.gpconnect.com.au Get thee to our annual conference!

Click this link for SGPN's [Closing the Gap](#) resources

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

Wakey! Wakey!

After a gentle wake up call ☺ Eurobodalla GPs have rallied to attend the Sleep Apnoea CPD evening being held tonight at The Pier Restaurant in Batemans Bay. Dr Peter Solin, Senior Lecturer at Monash University and Director of Cabrini Sleep Laboratory & Maryvale Sleep Service will be speaking on Sleep Apnoea and the associated health risks. If you do wish to come but haven't advised Sue please contact her by [email](#) on 4474 5100. RSVP's are essential for catering purposes (please don't just show up!)

ANU students beached

The ANU Students had whale of a time at the Broulee Surf Club last Wednesday when SGPN co-hosted a luncheon with the ANU Rural Medical School. Dr Tim Shepherd presented an entertaining insight into life as a rural GP (thanks Tim!) and the students were also treated to great food from North Street Cafe in the Bay and a spectacular display by five visiting whales at South Broulee Beach. A fantastic and hopefully inspirational experience to extol the benefits of taking up rural practice.

SGPN recommends...

Supporting the next generation of rural doctors

Fifty GP mentors are needed this year to provide clinical mentoring for the John Flynn Placement Program students, keen for rural experience.

Medical students are placed with a doctor for two weeks a year over four consecutive years. A community contact is also engaged to welcome and support the student socially. GP mentors receive \$660 per two-week placement and the community contact receives \$350. (Your practice manager may be that community contact).

You will have the satisfaction of passing on your expertise and understanding of rural medicine while playing a vital role in addressing the rural medical crisis.

ACRRM PDP and RACGP QA&CPD points for teaching medical students are also on offer.

We know that students who develop bonds and friendships within a community are more likely to return to that or to a similar community as future qualified medical practitioners. So, support the next generation of rural doctors and sign up! To find out more email ACRRM jfpp@acrrm.org.au or click [here](#) to fill out an application form. More information on mentoring is available on the ACRRM [website](#).

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

Ear Irrigation for nurses *Wednesday 1 September, Canberra, 10am-5pm and Tuesday 12 October, Narooma, 10am-5pm.*
Contact Sharon King for further information on 4821 0434.

Update in viral hepatitis *Thursday 2 September, 6.30pm, Trappers Motor Inn, Goulburn. Co-hosted by SGPN, GSAHS and the Australian Society for HIV Medicine.* Bookings to Tracy Goh on 02 8204 0721 or register online at ashm.org.au/courses

Evaluation of the lower limb using Doppler ultrasound for GPs and Practice Nurses *Friday 17 September, Moruya 10-1pm*
Contact Sharon King for further information on 4821 0434.

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:sueberry@stvincents.com.au) or phone 4474 5100.

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](#).

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.

BreastScreen has its mobile screening service at the following network locations: 23 August – 3 September; Crookwell 6-11 September. Call BreastScreen on 132050 for more information or patient bookings.

Katja Beitat is a doctoral candidate undertaking an international research project about 'Trust – factor in resolving conflicts between patients and medical practitioner'. She would like to hear from GPs interested in participating in her research project.

The project has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of Technology Sydney and is supported by the NSW Research Unit of the RACGP (Dr Winston Lo) and endorsed by AVANT Indemnity insurance on behalf of its members.

Contact Katja on 0403 710 192 or by email to Katja.Beitat@uts.edu.au.

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

Quality and Risk Manager Sue Fraser travelled to Riverina Division of General Practice last week to pick their collective brains about risk management and accreditation. Sue says the Riverina team were very generous in sharing their knowledge.

Sue went on to Canberra for a National Health Care Reform conference which she says was informative. Although just how informative will depend on the final election result ☺

Adele Byers and Linda Brown visited the Rural Doctors Network in Sydney to brush up on their MSOAP and ISOAP knowledge. This valuable program which funds specialists to provide outreach services to our region is managed by SGPN.

Chronic disease versus Federal election

It's unanimous: the LPCC Learning Workshop all about chronic disease management was absolutely the most exciting thing that happened in Canberra last Saturday.

SGPN's Practice Support teamster Virginia Voce organised the event and says that despite initial concerns about low numbers, the day turned out particularly well.

Dr Dale Ford presented a succinct review of the collaborative methodology and concluded his session by congratulating everyone on the overall improvement for all measures relating to CHD and diabetes.

Dr Garry Egger was up next speaking about lifestyle medicine. Garry's extensive experience and enthusiasm for the topic was very evident and the audience response reflected this.

Professor Prasuna Reddy was next on the agenda and she presented her analysis of the *Victorian Life! Taking Action On Diabetes* program which prompted interest around the room as to the lifestyle programs offered by SGPN.

Malindey Sorrell, SGPN's lifestyle modification program coordinator, was conveniently on hand to respond and was pleased to sign up a further four practices for our latest LMP. (Here's a [link](#), visit the programs section of our website, or call Malindey for more information.)

Locum needed in Harden

Locum required from 10-16th October in Harden. If you are interested in doing a stint in the Harden area, please contact Dr Hamid Raof on 6386 0200 or email hamidraoof@yahoo.com