

News Bites

Welcome to our
2012-13 Executive
Team

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Welcome to the UHPCP

Welcome to the first edition of the new UHPCP Newsletter!! As well as the re-introduction of a regular newsletter, 2012-13 also heralds some fairly significant changes for the PCP and in the broader primary care environment.

Departures

The most noticeable changes for many of you will be the departure of Daniel Whiting and Helen Still (after more than a decade of combined service with the PCP!). Daniel has taken on a full time position with the new Hume Medicare Local as the Clinical Services Team Leader (Eastern Hume), and Helen has joined the HARP (Hospital Admission Risk Program) team as well as working in a Team Leader role at AWH.

Priorities and Planning

Each of the PCPs in the Hume Region have been working with the Department of Health regional office towards alignment of PCP activities with key regional strategies. Hume PCPs have committed to working within a regional framework based around Aboriginal Health (Closing the Health Gap), Integrated Health Promotion, Aged Care and Chronic Care Strategies. This will include a focus on the domains of client journey, health literacy, workforce development and quality. PCPs will also continue to work towards the State PCP objectives, as well as a number of projects funded by other sources, and we are currently developing an implementation plan and the structures and systems to best manage these multiple deliverable areas.

Department of Health (State) have designated 2012-13 as a "bridging year", during which time they are reviewing the program logic for PCPs to ensure they remain relevant and effective into the future. The regional framework provides Hume PCPs with a clear direction from now to 2017.

New Structure and Auspice Agency

All core PCP staff are now employed by Hume Medicare Local on behalf of the PCP, and once the offices are fitted out will be co-locating with HML at their new location in Albury. The office fit out is expected to be completed in September. In the meantime PCP staff will continue to work from Gateway Community Health with the same contact details. Jenny Ashby, the East Hume Aged Care Planning and Service Development Coordinator, will continue to work from her various locations around Upper and Central Hume. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Gateway Community Health (soon to become Gateway Health) will continue to support the PCP by providing all funds holding and financial reporting functions on behalf of the partnership.

New Roles

In response to the ever-changing primary care environment and the uncertainty over DoH expectations into the future, the PCP has moved to more flexible project coordination roles, rather than the historical model tied directly to particular deliverable areas. PCP staff will work as an integrated support and coordination team to maximise the limited PCP resources. This change is expected to provide greater flexibility and adaptability.

Currently, the Upper Hume PCP support and coordination team includes Nikki Collins (Executive Officer, 4 days p/week), Jay McGough (Project Coordinator, 4 days p/week) and Dani Allgood (Administration Support, 2 days p/week, plus Project Coordinator, 1 day p/week). We will be seeking another part time Project Coordinator this year, but are waiting for our new "home" before recruiting.

What does all this mean for members?

The PCP support and coordination team will continue to work closely with members to facilitate, coordinate and enable activities supporting organisational and system changes in line with government expectations.



Better together...

Stronger Communities



UHPCP Community Wellbeing Network

In April 2011 UHPCP launched a new forum to support networking and professional development amongst workers from a range of health and community service agencies. The network has a focus on the health and well being of our community and has representation from community health and mental health agencies along with community support and welfare agencies, Aboriginal Health agencies and local Government.

In February 2012 the network members decided to name the group the *Community Wellbeing Network*, to better reflect our combined work in the promotion of health and wellbeing across our communities.

The meetings combine informal information sharing with a mini professional development workshop or themed discussion.

Topics covered have included:

Enhancing opportunities for social inclusion to promote mental health and wellbeing

Engaging the hard to reach

Evaluating – how do we know that what we are doing is making a difference?

Community and consumer participation in planning and local needs assessment

Healthy Eating and Physical Activity: who is doing what, where and with whom? (Healthy Eating and Physical Activity are the two Upper Hume Regional Integrated Health Promotion Priorities for 2012 -2017)

Healthy Eating Discussion: what does the data tell us, what are the issues, what can we do?

Working with the media

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday every second month (February to October). We meet from 12.00 noon to 2.00 p.m. – lunch is provided. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th October, venue to be confirmed. If you would like to be included on the emailing list for these meetings please contact Jay: jmcgough@gatewaycommunityhealth.org.au

Meeting Dates:

September:

- 6 ICDM BHS/INH Working Group
- 11 IHP Steering Group
- 13 The How to of Health Literacy workshop.
- 17 ICDM AWH Working Group

October:

- 4 ICDM BHS/INH Working group
- 9 IHP Network & IHP Steering Committee
- 15 ICDM AWH Working Group

Contact Details:

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