

Index

Click on the underlined text categories to take you to your category of choice.

Hot Topics

[GPDV Statistics Package Update](#)

[Rota Virus Vaccination Announcement](#)

[GPDV Staff Changes](#)

GP Health System Integration

[Aged Care Homes](#)

[GP/Hospital Communication](#)

[IM & ICT](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Primary Care Liaison](#)

Improved Population Health Through Systematic General Practice

[Aboriginal Health](#)

[Chronic Disease Management](#)

[Collaboratives](#)

[Disease Prevention](#)

[HIV, Viral Hepatitis & STI Education](#)

[Immunisation](#)

[Lifescrpts](#)

[Medication Management](#)

[Nurses in GP](#)

[Practice Capacity](#)

Program Consultants

Aboriginal Health:
Lesley Czulowski

Division Accreditation:
Susan Webster

Aged Care:
Lee Stamford

Broadband for Health:
Brendon Wickham

Clinical Risk Mgt &
GP/CHS Collaboration:
Pete Marshall

Collaboratives:
Catuscia Biuso

GP-hospital
communication:
Lenora Lippmann &
Jane Measday

HIV, Viral Hepatitis &
STI Education:
Michelle Wills

Immunisation:
Kim Riley

IM & ICT:
Chris Hayward &
Paul Macdonald

Lifescrpts:
Aimee Black

Lymphoedema:
Hari Kakouris

Mental Health:
Anne Diamond

Nurses in GP:
Lesley Czulowski &
Jenny Wilkins

PEPA (GP Palliative
Education):
Lee Stamford

Practice Accreditation:
Helen Threlfall

Practice Capacity for
Chronic Disease Mgmt:
Aimee Black

Primary Care Liaison:
Sonya Tremellen

Policy:
Louise Willis &
Christine Macdonald

Quality Use of
Medicines:
Lee Stamford

Refugee Health:
Annette Dupont

Star Divisions:
Helen Threlfall

Coming Events

Event	Date
Better Connections Better Care	Wed 18 July
<i>AGPN Practice Nurse Mentor Workshop*</i>	<i>Thur 26, Fri 27 & Sat 28 July</i>
Can do clinical education workshop	Fri 27 July
<i>National GPLO Conference*</i>	<i>Wed 1 August</i>
Financial Governance	Sat 11 August
Program Orientation	Wed 15 August
Collaboratives – Vic CPMs	Fri 17 August
GPDV Forum	Sun 19 August
National Nursing Meeting	Tues 28 & Wed 29 August
National Immunisation Meeting	Thurs 30 August

** denotes event not auspiced by GPDV*

Please send your contributions for the next Update to Vanessa Collinson
v.collinson@gpdv.com.au

Hot Topics

GPDV Statistics Package Update

Email: s.tremellen@gpdv.com.au

If you haven't had a chance to look at the recently updated data tables, take a look at the [GPDV Stats Package](#) now. Almost all divisions will notice an increase in the number of GPs claiming 45-49 wellness checks.

Practice accreditation figures will be updated in early July.

Rota Virus Vaccination Announcement!

Kim: k.riley@gpdv.com.au

The Victorian Immunisation Program is launching the commencement of oral rotavirus vaccine (RotaTeq® from CSL Biotherapies) following the recent announcement by the Commonwealth Government.

The oral RotaTeq® vaccine is given as a three dose schedule at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The funded program will commence from July 2007. All babies born from May 1, 2007 will be eligible for free rotavirus vaccine. The oral vaccine will be administered with the other scheduled vaccines (Infanrix IPV®, Comvax®, Prevenar®) routinely given to infants at 2, 4, and 6 months of age.

The first dose of RotaTeq® should be given no later than 12 weeks of age and the third dose should be given by 32 weeks of age.

All orders for this vaccination should be placed as soon as possible, through DHS, with the new vaccine order form which is attached.

Further information regarding this program will be sent electronically and in hard copy to all Divisions.



JULY2007 Vaccine
Order Form.doc



RotaTeq Cut off
Dates.xls

GPDV Staff Changes

We are very pleased to welcome back Aimee Black to GPDV.

When the Lifescripts Program was in its infancy, she was seconded part-time from Whitehorse Division to work here at GPDV. With her success in that initial rollout of the program, she followed that up with the national role of Lifestyle Prescription Co-ordinator with AGPN, but has since decided to return to Melbourne.

Her position will be Population Health Consultant (Practice Capacity for Chronic Disease Management) and will also incorporate ongoing support for prevention in practice, including both Lifescripts and the Green Book. She will begin working here from 2 July and can be contacted on a.black@gpdv.com.au.

GP Health System Integration

Aged Care Homes

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Aged Care Budget Information

Aged Care Funding changes were explained in detail at a series of briefings by Peter Broadhead in Melbourne. The briefings were attended by many aged care facility owners/accountants and Directors of Nursing. Information on the ACFI was also presented.

For a copy of the presentation, go to the following website:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-securing-the-future>

If you want specific questions about the budget detail answered then you can email the question to:

Securingthefuture@health.gov.au

Partnership Analysis Tool

This was mentioned by Rosemary McKenzie at the Aged Care Program day. The link to the audit tool is: http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/assets/contentFiles/VHP%20part.%20tool_low%20res.pdf

Information about aged care services

The Department of Health and Ageing has developed a website that covers aspects of care for older Australians. There is a service locator and general information about moving into a formal care arrangement. Go to: www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au

Information about palliative care

www.caresearch.com.au is the online resource for information about palliative care in Australia. It includes a literature search function that links with scientific and clinical publications that might be useful.

Younger people in residential aged care

The Victorian Department of Human Services has developed a strategy for younger people at risk of entering residential care called 'My Future My Choice'. Details of the strategy including information about the development of purpose-built facilities for younger people is available at: http://nps718.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilitysite.nsf/sectiontwo/myfuture_mychoice?open

[Back to Aged Care Homes](#)

GP/Hospital Communication

Lenora: l.lippmann@gpdv.com.au

GPLO workshop held 19th June

At the General Practice Liaison workshop last week GPLOs were advised that they are expected to provide annual action plans by 28 September. These plans need to be supported by a health service executive sponsor and relevant divisions. For statewide hospitals the support needs to be from one or two high referring divisions only. The plans need to align with Statewide Strategic Goals for GP Liaison determined by DHS in consultation with GPDV and the GPLOs. The plans will be submitted to Jane Measday, the general practice liaison service coordinator at GPDV, who will collate them into a state-wide plan for DHS.

Funding for general practice liaison will continue at current levels with the Eye and Ear receiving continuing funding for the position and Barwon being considered for DHS funding for GP Liaison.

If you have any queries or would like a copy of the Statewide Strategic Goals for General practice Liaison please contact Lenora on 9341 5200 or l.lippmann@gpdv.com.au.

[Back to GP/Hospital Communication](#)

IM & ICT

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Information Management Maturity Framework Pilot (IMMF)

The national pilot of the Information Management Maturity Capacity-check (IMMC) has been completed with nine Divisions nationally, four from Victoria. The pilot clearly demonstrated the value of the Framework and Capacity Check tool for understanding each Divisions IM capacity.

The IM Maturity Framework will support a process of change and improvement in Division's information management capacity.

[Back to Index Page](#)

Workshops and presentations on how to use the IMMF will be made available to Divisions at the beginning of the 07 -08 financial year. Support to use the IMMF will be provided by Chris Hayward and Paul Macdonald.

About the IMMF

- The adoption of the framework by Divisions is voluntary.
- The framework is a tool for internal use within Divisions to help develop IM Plans for continuous improvement in capacity linked to individual Division's program service delivery priorities and business opportunities.
- The information derived from using the framework is confidential to each Division.
- The framework imposes a common terminology and approach to continuous improvement in IM capacity within Divisions.
- The framework focuses on the organisation not the individual.

Implementing the IM Maturity Framework is a four step process:

- Step 1 - Self Assessment using the IM Maturity Checklist.
- Step 2 – Gap Analysis to identify and prioritise desired improvements IM.
- Step 3 - Application of Toolkit to identify Action Tasks for IM Maturity Improvement.
- Step 4 - Benefits Realisation in IM Maturity and Business Outcomes.

Please contact Chris Hayward or Paul Macdonald for information on the IMMF.

[Back to IM & ICT](#)

Broadband For Health – Extension to Program

DoHA have just announced an extension to the Broadband For Health incentive program. The key points for consideration are:

1. The Broadband For Health program will terminate on 31/12/2007.
2. Practices whose contract is due for renewal on or before 31/12/2007, and those who have not claimed before, can apply for the incentive until 31/12/2007 (the incentive payment covers a 12 month period).
3. Late applications (i.e. received after 31/12/2007) will not be accepted.
4. There will be no further reduction in the incentive amount.

Practices needing help with applying for BFH, or considering their broadband requirements post-BFH are encouraged to contact Brendon Wickham at GPDV on 03 9341 5238 or b.wickham@gpdv.com.au.

[Back to IM&ICT](#)

Summary of IM/IT issues in divisions workshop held 29 May

GPDV's May *IM/IT Issues in Divisions* workshop was attended by 18 Victorian division staff, 2 Tasmanian divisions, 1 A.C.T. division, 1 staff member from AGPN, 1 staff member from Victoria's DoHA state office, 3 representatives from St Vincent's Health, 1 representative from Diabetes Australia, 1 representative from Barwon Health, 2 researchers from Melbourne University and 2 Health IT software vendors.

Topics covered were:

- Update from AGPN
- Secure Messaging
- CONDUIT: Collaborative Network and Data using Information Technology: Secure audit, research and clinical information sharing

[Back to Index Page](#)

- Central Highlands Division's experience of implementing the Practice Health Atlas
- A Stranger in Paradise
- Pen Clinical Audit (*no presentation provided*)
- Genie (*no presentation provided*)

The [presentations](#) from the workshop can be found on the GPDV website.

A more detailed overview of the event can be found in the [IMIT Digest Vol. 2](#) which can also be found on the GPDV website.

CEOs have requested that the next IMIT Issues in Divisions workshop address the actual experience of Divisions implementing the Practice health Atlas and Clinical Audit. A draft agenda will be circulated as usual. Next workshop is scheduled for September 6 2007.

[Back to IM&ICT](#)

Items of interest for Divisions from the DHS Forum on e-health held 18 June

The presentations from the event will be available on the DHS website at the end of July - <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/publications/ehealth.htm>

Key Points

- **The Human Services Directory (HSD)** will be the health service provider directory for Victoria. The current tender indicates that the scope of the directory has been expanded to incorporate future messaging capacity using web services as well as supporting current functionality. DHS stated that they would be moving to a Services Oriented Architecture supported by web services that would enable the HSD to support eReferral. GPDV will provide clarification on the HSD as it becomes available.
- **Messaging and referral:** DHS is taking a broad view of eReferral. The possibility of a gateway to link different messaging systems was proposed in a number of presentations. No detail on the architecture was provided or whether or not this is an agreed solution. However it is expected that any solution will be based on open standards.

The first step for DHS is to develop an eReferral business case and concurrently develop the specifications for an eReferral gateway. These items are expected to be completed by December 2007.

The current tender for Secure Data Exchange (E060725) states: The Department of Human Services (DHS) has a requirement to obtain information about possible solutions for the delivery of Business-to-Business (B2B) Secure Data Exchange (SDE). The Secure Data Exchange will provide a centralised, secure, reliable secure data transfer facility that will enable non-government agencies to deliver data to and receive data from DHS with ease and in a timely manner. DHS is accordingly conducting a Request for Information (RFI) process to obtain preliminary information from vendors regarding proposed solutions and indicative cost options.

- DHS has engaged GPDV to promote the HSD and improve the quality of GP data in the HSD. Contact Lenora Lippman for further information on this project.
- The Office of Health Information Systems (OHIS) will be developing a *Whole of Victoria ICT Strategy 2008 – 2011*. Details on the scope and consultation process are not yet available. GPDV will be advocating for General Practice inclusion. Details will be provided as they become available.

[Back to Index Page](#)

- HealthConnect Victoria is in the final stages of planning. The HealthConnect Victoria Shared Electronic Health Record Project has been established to prototype a limited SEHR system across a number of Victorian public sector health providers, primary and community care providers in the Bendigo Loddon region. HealthConnect Projects bring benefits for both consumers and practitioners through:
 - Improved quality and safety for consumers from shared health information to support decision making
 - Less time spent searching for information at the point of care
 - Life saving information available in emergencies
 - Consumers better able to manage their health care

The HealthConnect Victoria proposal for 07 – 08 seeks to extend the range of health care to deliver an electronic based disease management capability and to engage consumers to actively participate in their health management. HealthConnect Victoria plans to test electronic information exchange to support and monitor service coordination and care management as consumers move across the care continuum.

[Back to IM for Linkages](#)

CRM Rebate

Congratulations to all Victorian divisions who were successful in receiving the rebate. All Victorian Divisions now have a CRM system capable of recording member information and tracking Division activities.

[Back to IM for Linkages](#)

CRM Support: Offer of Division training on databases and reporting

Paul Macdonald has emailed an Expression of Interest to all divisions this week. There are two training opportunities:

1. Crystal Reports for DIS Training – (please note that participants need to have a good understanding of a database reporting tool)
2. Relational Database Fundamentals Training

Expressions of interest are needed by 13 July 2007. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Paul on 9341 5234 or email p.macdonald@gpdv.com.au.

[Back to IM for Linkages](#)

Division training on Practice Health Atlas

Congratulations to Victorian divisions on your enthusiastic uptake of the Practice Health Atlas.

Dates for the third offering of the training were announced by GPDV on 12 June and interest has already exceeded capacity. The September/October training is now fully booked.

By the end of the Sept/Oct training, 19 out of 30 Victorian divisions (63.3%) will have at least 1 staff member (some with 3) trained to perform the Practice Health Atlas on behalf of their practices and their division.

Dates for a fourth offering of the Practice Health Atlas training for Victorian divisions have been requested and we hope they will be held in November. Please let Paul know if you are interested in a place.

If you would like to discuss the process with a division who has already done the training and is currently creating Practice Health Atlases for their members please contact Paul Macdonald on 9341 5234 so this can be arranged.

[Back to IM for Linkages](#)

[Back to Index Page](#)

National roundtable discussion on Unique Healthcare Provider Identifiers

NEHTA has released a report on the feedback to their consultation on privacy and unique healthcare identifiers and their approach to privacy and Shared Electronic Health Records. (see www.nehta.gov.au) Chris Hayward will be attending the roundtable discussion with NEHTA and other stakeholders on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th June in Canberra.

Thanks to those divisions who have provided some feedback on the report. If anyone would like to know more about the details of this work please don't hesitate to contact Chris on 9341 5237 or email c.hayward@gpdv.com.au.

[Back to IM for Linkages](#)

Telemedicine in Victoria

DHS has contracted Price Waterhouse Coopers Australia (PWC) to research the current and future use of telemedicine in Victoria.

The aim of the project is to provide the Victorian Health Service Management Innovation Council with an overview of the current state of telemedicine in Victoria. The key deliverable is a report which will allow the Council to determine what actions need to be undertaken to assist further development and uptake of telemedicine, and the actions required to provide a consistent framework across Victoria.

Thanks to those divisions that provided information to us. This has been forwarded to PWC and Chris will keep you posted on the progress of this work.

[Back to IM for Linkages](#)

Mental Health

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DoHA/AGPN News

Australian General Practice Primary Mental Health Network Forum

AGPN and DoHA jointly convened the Australian General Practice Primary Mental Health Network Forum on 27th June at the Hilton at the Airport in Melbourne. Over 180 people attended from divisions across the country, with 27 divisions represented from Victoria, and 42 people attending, mostly CEOs and Mental Health Program Co-ordinators. Jan Densley from Bendigo Division gave an excellent presentation on the Bendigo ATAPs model as one of three division presentations in the morning program.

Key representatives from DoHA were present including Nathan Smythe, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Mental Health and Workforce Division, and Di Knight, Director, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Branch, the section which oversees the ATAPS contracts, funding and development. AGPN put forward common themes for undertaking the new COAG Mental Health Initiatives as follows:

- knowing and engaging your community;
- engaging GPs and other providers;
- a joint vision for your community;
- planning;
- identifying ingredients.

A successful plenary session was held. AGPN and DoHA announced a forthcoming six month consultation strategy with divisions to determine potential models of funding divisions for enhanced mental health integration locally.

[Back to Mental Health](#)

[Back to Index Page](#)

GPDV News

The GPDV statewide *Can Do* Clinical Education Workshop, clinical training modules provided through the National Can Do Initiative will be conducted by Dr David Tillett and Professor Greg Whelan on 27 July in Melbourne. The six and half hour module aims to equip GPs. There are 30 places for this workshop which is particularly targeted to GPs and clinicians who have attended the *Can Do* Teams of Two training workshops run by local divisions this year.

Meeting with Minister Neville, Minister for Mental Health

On Tuesday 26 June, Drs Rob Grenfell and John Meaney, and Anne Diamond, GPDV Mental Health Consultant, met with Minister Lisa Neville. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the new Minister on the work of Victorian divisions and the role of general practice in mental health care. The meeting was successful and the Minister offered to meet regularly with GPDV in future.

[Back to Mental Health](#)

Other News

The MHS Conference September 2007

Please note that the forthcoming 17th Annual TheMHS Conference to be held in Melbourne at the Melbourne Convention Centre on 4-7th September has a GP and primary care session on Thursday 6 September. Keynote speakers at the Conference are Dr Kim T. Mueser, clinical psychologist and a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Community and Family Medicine at the Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA; Dr Til Wykes, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Rehabilitation at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London; and Ms Mary O'Hagan has been a mental health commissioner in New Zealand since 2000. Earlybird registration is now available until 16th July on www.themhs.org.

[Back to Mental Health](#)

Primary Care Liaison

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DHS Small Grants (direct allocation)

GPDV has negotiated with the Primary Health Branch of DHS a round of one-off Small Grants involving the direct allocation of funds to those divisions not in the catchment areas of the Early Intervention in Chronic Disease Initiative. \$15,000 grants have been offered to 12 divisions to work with relevant PCPs on key PCP Integrated Chronic Disease Management deliverables. The divisions eligible for this Small Grants round are:

- Border
- Central Highlands
- East Gippsland
- Inner Eastern Melbourne
- Melbourne
- Murray Plains
- North East Victoria
- Otway
- South Gippsland
- Southcity
- West Victoria
- Westgate

[Back to PCPs](#)

[Back to Index Page](#)

Better Connections Better Care workshop – Wednesday 18 July

An agenda and registration form has been sent out to all divisions and PCPs. The workshop will showcase a number of projects on strengthening processes to support care coordination/planning. In particular, the three Collaborative Care Planning projects that were funded by DHS through GPDV last year will report on their outcomes.

The afternoon session will give participants the opportunity to have input into DHS work on care planning including revision of the Service Coordination Plan tool template and guidelines; and further work on the care planning section of the Victorian Service Coordination Practice Manual.

[Back to PCPs](#)

Victorian Service Coordination Practice Manual launched in June, 2007

The Victorian Service Coordination Practice Manual was launched at the recent DHS Forum on e-health. http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/publications/sc_pracmanual.htm The manual is a resource to support the implementation of service coordination.

The document acknowledges divisions and general practice as essential participants in achieving the aim of service coordination, which is to place consumers at the centre of service delivery, to ensure that they have access to the services they need, opportunities for early intervention, health promotion and improved health and care outcomes.

As implementation of the practice standards in the manual occurs, GPDV thinks this is likely to mean the following, in practical terms:

General practice:

- is encouraged to use the Victorian Statewide Referral Form for referral to primary care agencies,
- is likely to receive timely notification as to whether the referral has been accepted,
- is likely to receive written feedback on assessment and treatment outcomes from primary care agencies.

Further discussion is needed to tease out the interface between general practice care planning processes and inter-agency care planning through state funded primary care agencies.

[Back to PCPs](#)

Improved Population Health through systematic general practice

Aboriginal Health

Lesley: l.czulowski@gpdv.com.au

Aboriginal Medical Service Administration Manual

In close collaboration with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC), the NSW Rural Doctors Network (NSWRDN) has developed and distributed an Administration Manual for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in rural NSW. The manual has been designed to enable these ACCHSs to develop or revise policies and procedures for their medical services, and to assist those who wish to move towards and through the accreditation process.

It includes accreditation-specific, copyright material generously provided by QIP/AGPAL as well as materials specific to Aboriginal Medical Services. During late 2006, five ACCHSs (both urban and rural) piloted the draft manual, providing feedback that was incorporated into the final version.

For more information, visit the link below on the NSWRDN website:
<http://www.nswrdn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=76666>

[Back to Aboriginal Health](#)

[Back to Index Page](#)

2007 AMA report card on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues

Each year the AMA prepares a report card on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues. Their 2007 report has been released

The AMA points out the continuing "criminal underfunding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health" and emphasises that "we, the people who work in the health system, have to continue to lead the charge to right this most grievous wrong." The report points out evidence that the primary health care system is failing Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, compared with the rest of the population. One of the key recommendations is for "mainstream services to focus current resources to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples". The Report also discusses institutional racism, and raises as an example where mainstream health services expect they should provide the same service for all their patients, which neglects the differing needs of minority populations.

Link to the report: [http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-73EVX9/\\$file/Reportcard_2007.pdf](http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-73EVX9/$file/Reportcard_2007.pdf)

The challenge for us in Divisions is to clarify our role and responsibilities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, to make sure we are part of the solution.

[Back to Aboriginal Health](#)

Chronic Disease Management

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Asthma

Asthma Foundation of Victoria – Free Asthma Education Sessions

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria will be holding a series of free education sessions suitable for patients of all ages conducted by trained asthma educators. Topics include:

What is asthma?

Is your asthma out of control at times? Do you wonder, what's happening to me – why am I wheezing and feeling breathless?

Triggers – know your troublemakers

What triggers your asthma – exercise, allergies, smoke, emotion? This is a key step to gaining control of asthma.

Help your medication help you

Do you know what kinds of medication are used to treat asthma and how they work? Do you know their possible side effects? Do you know how to get the best results from your medicine?

Controlling episodes

Do you know how to prevent asthma episodes from starting – or getting worse?

Working with your doctor

Do you want to make visits to your doctor more useful? Learn about the Asthma Cycle of Care

- **Wednesday 18th July**
7.30pm – 8.30pm (General focus)
Venue Manningham City Council, Heidi Room, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster

Bookings are essential as workshops may be changed or cancelled if insufficient registrations are received.

To register or for further information:

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria, (03) 9326 7088 or (tollfree 1800 645 130).

[Back to CDM](#)

[Back to Index Page](#)

Collaboratives

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CPM Workshop

A meeting was recently held for the Victorian Collaborative Program Managers (CPMs) to collectively plan and determine the Victorian approach for maintaining and integrating the work of the Collaboratives. To follow are some of the key activities discussed at the meeting that will be undertaken over the next 6 months:

- **Statewide workshop on Quality Improvement** – Proposal to run a statewide workshop for divisional staff on quality improvement in general practice, informed by the Collaboratives methodology and lessons learned from the Program.
- **Strategy to re engage Wave 1 and 2 practices** - A needs analysis of Wave 1 and 2 practices will be conducted by CPMs to inform local approaches for re engagement. A checklist will be developed in consultation with CPMs for the purpose of obtaining information on current quality improvement activities and identifying practice barriers.
- **Victorian Collaboratives Program Calendar** - In an effort to improve information sharing and promote the Collaboratives work in Victoria, a calendar of local activities will be developed. The calendar will be uploaded to the GPDV website and also promoted through other means.
- **Professional Development for Victorian CPMs** - GP engagement and facilitating practice team building was identified as a key area to be addressed.

The Victorian CPMs will be meeting again in the next couple of months to continue to plan and share information on local strategies, and identify opportunities for collaboration. Other key stakeholders such as Diabetes Australia-Victoria and the National Heart Foundation are also being engaged to support local approaches.

[Back to Collaboratives](#)

Disease Prevention

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Cancer

Australia's first cancer survivor's booklet launched

The Cancer Council Victoria has launched a new publication *Life after Cancer: A Guide for Cancer Survivors*, the first booklet of its kind in Australia.

The booklet has been developed in conjunction with the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, who have also launched a DVD *Just take it Day to Day: A Survivors Guide to Life After Cancer*.

These are critical resources for people living with cancer. Feedback from cancer survivors has revealed how incredibly valuable the booklet and DVD are for understanding cancer survivor's needs.

The booklet and DVD are ideal for people who have finished their cancer treatment and their carers, family and friends.

Call the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20 to order free copies of these resources or email cis@cancervic.org.au.

[Back to Disease Prevention](#)

Cervical Screening

Role of GPs pivotal in cervical cancer prevention

Courtesy of PapScreen Victoria

From July 2007 as part of the National Immunisation Program, young women aged 18 to 26 (inclusive) will be eligible to receive the cervical cancer vaccine, free from their GP and immunisation providers.

[Back to Index Page](#)

The vaccine prevents against two types of HPV, (16 & 18) which cause up to 70% of cervical cancers. It is critical women are reminded that vaccinated or not, regular Pap tests are vital in the prevention of cervical cancer.

To assist health professionals, PapScreen Victoria has developed a range of resources, including Pap test reminder cards to help women keep track of when their next Pap test is due. PapScreen also has a range of brochures and information sheets to assist women in understanding the link between HPV, Pap tests and cervical cancer. To order resources visit the health professionals section of the PapScreen website www.papscreen.org.au or call 13 11 20.

PapScreen assists more health professionals to achieve best practice in cervical screening: CLINICAL AUDIT

Courtesy of PapScreen Victoria

PapScreen Victoria is delighted that over 200 GPs, Pap test providers and practice nurses from over 100 services are currently participating in this triennium's Clinical Audit.

Registration for the Clinical Audit this triennium has now closed. The clinical audit is assisting GPs, Pap test providers and practice staff to become familiar with the new NHMRC Cervical Screening Management Guidelines. It also enables GPs and practices to review current cervical screening rates and to develop strategies to improve practice systems. In addition, the audit assists practices to capitalise on the Cervical Screening Service Incentive Payment.

PapScreen Victoria would like to remind all GPs and practices registered for the audit, they are required to return all completed worksheets by 15 November 2007.

The PapScreen Clinical Audit remains a proven success story, with over 680 Victorian GPs taking part in the past 8 years, representing a boost for cervical screening in Victoria.

For more information, please contact the Audit Administrator, on (03) 9635 5049 or email papscreen@cancervic.org.au

[Back to Disease Prevention](#)

Smoking

MEDIA RELEASE = Quit calls for the withdrawal of 'Australiana' themed cigarette cartons

Quit has called for the immediate withdrawal of 'Australian' themed duty-free cartons of cigarettes, saying it is a blatant attempt of the tobacco industry to exploit Australia's image to sell a deadly product.

Cartons of cigarettes bearing outback imagery and flaunting pictures of national icons like the kangaroo and koala next to marketing slogans such as "Another Proud Australian" and "Real Australian" are being offered to travellers leaving Australia.

Acting Director of Quit, Ms Suzie Stillman, said the cigarette cartons were a cynical attempt by the tobacco industry to associate the laid-back, outdoorsy Australian lifestyle with their deadly products.

"Cigarettes are a product that when used as directed kill up to 2 out of 3 lifetime users, which is hardly something that should be connected to the clean, fresh images of the Australian outdoors."

"For the tobacco industry to dress these products up as some sort of colourful souvenir representing Australia is pretty low. Unfortunately it is not surprising behaviour from an industry that is always looking for new ways to try and associate positive attributes with their toxic products."

"Australians can be justifiably upset at these quintessentially Australian images being sullied to promote cigarettes."

Cigarette cartons using images of New Zealand have just been removed from sale in New Zealand after protests from health groups branded the inclusion of national symbols on cigarette cartons an insult.

Ms Stillman said this latest trick to take advantage of popular tourist images to sell cigarettes once again throws the spotlight on the sale of duty-free cigarettes in Australia.

“The Commonwealth Government must act to remove the tax exemptions that presently apply to cigarette purchases by travellers entering or leaving Australia.”

“Significant progress in efforts to encourage people to quit smoking have been made over the last few years, so it would certainly be consistent with other strong tobacco control initiatives to see an end to the duty-free sale of cigarettes,” said Ms Stillman.

Ms Suzie Stillman is available for comment is available for comment on 03 9635 5526 or 0419 533 869

Further information: Edwina Vellar, Media Manager

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[Back to Disease Prevention](#)

HIV, Viral Hepatitis & STI Education

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A New Resource on Chlamydia

Chlamydia: Combating the Epidemic DVD & video resource available free The Rural Health Education Foundation's program on Chlamydia, broadcast in March 2007, is now available on DVD or video free.

The program alerts health practitioners (General Practitioners, nurses, allied health workers, and Aboriginal Health Workers) to the high and increasing prevalence of Chlamydia and the need to take appropriate measures. It aims to facilitate health professionals in asking sexual health questions, discussing preventative measures, and performing Chlamydia screening and treatment.

For further information about receiving this resource go to <http://www.rhef.com.au/news/070314/070314.html>

How to order your free copy of *Chlamydia: Combating the Epidemic*

To order your free DVD or VHS video copy (one per person or organisation only within Australia), please email The RHEF at chlamydia@rhef.com.au; or fax on (02) 6232-5484 specifying your preferred format and providing your name, organisation, postal address, contact telephone number and email address.

[Back to HIV & STI Education](#)

Immunisation

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Rota Virus Vaccination Announcement

The Victorian Immunisation Program is launching the commencement of oral rotavirus vaccine (RotaTeq® from CSL Biotherapies) following the recent announcement by the Commonwealth Government.

See the full article in the [Hot Topics](#) section.

Lifescritps

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Putting Prevention into practice-Lifescritps and the Green Book Active Learning Module

Putting Prevention into Practice is an active learning module designed to provide general practice teams with the ability to successfully implement relevant prevention strategies into everyday practice being developed by the RACGP.

The aim of the module is to increase knowledge, understanding and practitioner skills in putting prevention into practice, and to raise awareness of the value of evidence based strategies for the implementation of prevention in the general practice setting. It contains a mixture of the theory

[Back to Index Page](#)

behind implementing prevention, and practical case studies and activities to help develop prevention programs.

As implementing prevention activities into practices takes a team approach, the module has been designed for the whole practice team: general practitioners, general practice registrars, practice managers, practice nurses, and other practice staff as well as divisions of general practice. The ALM will be released in about a month's time, and around half the Victorian divisions have expressed interest in participating in a Train the Trainer Day facilitated by GPDV, which will resource a staff member and a practice nurse to support use of the ALM or modules within it, with practice staff and GPs.

Divisions are welcome to express interest still and may want to be involved with a neighbouring division or perhaps through regional arrangements. Please contact Helen Threlfall if you want to be part of this activity.

[Back to Lifescripts](#)

Medication Management

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National Prescribing Service

GPDV now has formal links with the NPS and will provide assistance to divisions around coordination, information exchange etc. It is expected that we will meet formally with the NPS at least twice a year to discuss ways the program can be promoted through the divisions' network. If there is specific information or assistance that we can provide for your division then contact Lee Stamford l.stamford@gpdv.com.au.

[Back to Medication Management](#)

Home Medicines Program

Facilitators met with the state and national Guild HMR program managers recently to discuss the program direction over the next twelve months. Helen Threlfall and Lee Stamford developed a long list of issues that can be addressed at state, national and local levels. This list will be used as the basis for an activity plan over the next year. Also at the facilitators' workshop, development of some performance/outcome measures was commenced. We have distributed this work to the facilitators in attendance. Further information can be obtained by contacting Lee Stamford l.stamford@gpdv.com.au

[Back to Medication Management](#)

Nurses in GP

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NiGP National Mentoring Pilot

The Australian General Practice Network together with the Australian Mentor Centre is conducting a twelve month pilot program, to provide structured mentoring as a support function for nurses in general practice. The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The Pilot aims to provide general practice nurses across Australia with an opportunity to engage in structured mentoring relationships thereby contributing to their professional development in the primary care setting. Division practice nurse program officers and practice nurses are eligible to be involved in the Pilot.

You can be involved across three programs including:

- Formal 1:1 mentoring program
- Mentoring groups
- Mentoring circles

Free training workshops will be provided for both mentors and mentees involved in the 1:1 mentoring program. Mentoring groups and mentoring circle participants will be supported with online tutorials and information packages. Participants will receive ongoing support for the duration of the Pilot.

To access more information and download registration forms visit:
www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=25158

Don't delay – registration for the formal 1:1 mentoring program closes 27 June 2007, and registration for mentoring groups and mentoring circles closes 13 July 2007.

[Back to Practice Nurses](#)

NiGP Forum

Once again this year AGPN have received keen interest in the national nign forum with approximately 140 delegates registered to attend. an interesting and invigorating program is planned. the final program including guest presenters will be finalised over the next few weeks.

One of the key aims of the NiGP Forum is to showcase nationally relevant initiatives and models of general practice nurse support being undertaken by Divisions of General Practice. This year AGPN have scheduled provision within the program for seven Divisions to showcase their work. Evaluation of last year's forum indicated that delegates rated these sessions highly. Presentations will be for 15 minutes each plus five minutes of question time.

We encourage divisions to consider submitting an abstract by the due date - 26 June 2007.

[Back to Practice Nurses](#)

National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey

Courtesy of AGPN Nursing News, May 2007

AGPN has been requested by DoHA to repeat the National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey in 2007. This survey provides important information to support and inform the Australian Government's Nursing in General Practice Initiative. It is the only comprehensive report of the nature and characteristics of the practice nurse workforce.

In order to streamline the collection process the survey will be made available electronically. AGPN plan to collect the data with the assistance of the Divisions Network during July and August 2007. We greatly value your support and assistance in promoting the survey to your practices and practice nurses, and urge you to be involved in this important work. Further information will be provided in the near future

[Back to Practice Nurses](#)

APNA News

The new APNA Career Centre is up and running. It is essentially like a mycareer.com.au site on which employers can pay to have positions advertised and nurses can look for positions. Recruiting organisations can subscribe. Any division who may be doing a PN recruitment activity might consider this - let Lesley know if you are interested.

APNA CPD program has been launched. The program will cost \$80 per year, nurses will record CPD points with 30 points per year being needed. There are categories for points in order to recognise and encourage nurses to undertake learning with more reflective components. Points allocated by other industry bodies e.g. RCNA and RACGP will be recognised. Nurses will receive a satchel/folder to record points and collect certificates etc in and a badge. They can also record online on APNA learning.

The 2007 APNA AGM has been held this month 2 resignations and 2 new board members – Deborah Ingram (NSW) and Lynne Walker (Vic) have resigned and Sharon Kirkman (NSW) and Carmen Pearce (ACT) have come onto the board.

[Back to Practice Nurses](#)

[Back to Index Page](#)

Practice Capacity

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Practice Accreditation

AGPAL is holding a series of workshops for practices around Australia to support them in preparing for accreditation. The complete program can be accessed through their website www.agpal.com.au and includes the RACGP 3rd Edition Standards, the resources that AGPAL provides to support practices in preparation, and a number of other sessions. AGPAL is part owned by the Divisions Network.

Victorian sessions are being held in:

- Melbourne on 13 and 14 September,
- Geelong on 17 October, and
- Bendigo on 19 October.

[Back to Practice Capacity](#)

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Information contained within this publication is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, please feel free to extract whole or parts of this newsletter to benefit other interested parties with information sharing. If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments regarding the Primary Care Updates Program please contact Vanessa Collinson (details above).

To unsubscribe from receiving this publication please contact GPDV (details above).

[Back to Index Page](#)