



## HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK

### ***NETWORK NEWS BRIEF – June 2009***

#### ***WELCOME***

Welcome to the first Network News Brief for 2009. Network News Brief is sent out via email approximately 3 or 4 times a year (and in hard copy to those members who request it this way). It is planned that two Forums will occur each year.

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#### ***NEWS FROM THE DIVISION***

The second part of 2008 saw some changes in focus regarding our contractual arrangements with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the new Government's focus on primary health care. The previous national emphasis on Divisional consumer engagement has decreased, however, General Practice South acknowledges the need for our Consumer Health Network to be maintained and enhanced. The delay in getting this news brief to you has been the dedicated time needed to refocus on what General Practice South's priorities are and what our contractual arrangements are. Julie Dunbabin, Program Manager will again take control of the Consumer brief and can be contacted on 62087300 or [jdunbabin@gpsouth.com.au](mailto:jdunbabin@gpsouth.com.au). Forum outcomes will continue to be used to inform the Division's business planning process for each year as well as provide valuable consumer input into State health issues, eg, Superclinics and Integrated Care Centres.

#### ***SUPERCLINICS & INTEGRATED CARE CENTRES (ICC)***

A great deal of development work has been done on the Superclinics planned for Sorell and Clarence, but there are still many issues to be addressed. Invitations will be coming soon for a **Consumer Network Forum** to have input as to how the Superclinics and ICC's should look on the ground to meet community needs. The date for this forum is Wednesday **24<sup>th</sup> June 09 between 9.30am and 12 noon**. It will be held at our new premises on the **Ground floor, 31 Tower Rd, New Town**. Our phone number is **6208 7300**. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to visit us at our new premises and to be part of important discussions on Superclinics and Integrated Care Centres.

#### ***HEALTH REFORMS***

Over the past six to twelve months, the federal government has initiated a number of health-related policies and reviews and these are due to report around the middle of the year. These are the National Primary Health Care Strategy, National Health & Hospitals Reform Commission and Preventative Health Taskforce. The Division Network has provided feedback to the federal government from a general practice viewpoint on a range of issues related to these documents.

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## **NEWS FROM OTHER AREAS**

### **Cold Season/Flu season**

It's that time of year again and to add to it we have the evolving H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) on our doorstep.

"For information on Swine Flu the contact number for the public in Tasmania is 1800 358 362 or 1800 FLU DOC. The number's should be used for notification of symptoms experienced by you. The symptoms to be aware of are a temperature of 38 degrees Celcius OR greater or a good history of fever, AND recent onset of at least one of the following symptoms: rhinorrhoea, nasal congestion, sore throat or cough." Source: faxstream advisory from the Director of Public Health, DHHS. 25 May 2009

For information on the common cold visit the following website for useful tips.

<http://www.nps.org.au/consumers/campaigns/ccncs/brochure>

### **Chronic Heart Failure information is now available in 16 community languages (available from the Heart Foundation)**

**Croatian/Italian/Macedonian/Maltese/Greek/Korean/Polish/Russian/Spanish/Vietnamese/Arabic/Portugese/Serbian/Turkish/Simplified Chinese/Traditional Chinese**

This information sheet is for people with heart failure and their carers. It includes:

- Information on how to minimise the symptoms of heart failure and stay healthy
- Has an action listing the important things to do every day and when to call a health professional or an ambulance

**Visit** [www.heartfoundation.org.au/PROFESSIONAL\\_INFORMATION](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/PROFESSIONAL_INFORMATION) to obtain a copy of this information sheet.

### **Dementia Community Forums**

The Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre together with Dr Jane Tolman invite you to attend a community Forum. The Forum will address how Dementia can affect you and your family and discuss what services are available in your area to help you continue to live independently in your own home. It is a presentation for everyone, including families, friends and health professionals.

Forums are planned at the Huon Community Health Centre (Huonville) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 09 and at the Tasman Multi Purpose Centre (Nubeena) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 09. Both sessions start at 11.00am.

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### **OVER TO YOU...**

Don't forget that General Practice South is keen to receive comments or questions relating to general practice from members of the Health Consumer Network at any time (you don't have to wait for us to ask specific questions).

If you have any news from your organisation that is likely to be of interest to GPs or their staff, the deadline for the August edition of the *Division News* is July 7 2009. The deadline for the next *Consumer Network News Brief* is August 31 2009.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you need to discuss any issues in this newsletter, please contact Julie Dunbabin – Program Manager and contact for the Health Consumers Network – at the Division ph: 62 087300 or email [jdunbabin@gpsouth.com.au](mailto:jdunbabin@gpsouth.com.au)