

HIV LIVING & SOCIAL POLICY

BULLETIN APRIL 2009: ISSUE 1

The NAPWA HIV Living Today bulletin is issued once a quarter in the interest of keeping our NAPWA Networks and members up to date with what's happening in the HIV Living unit. The bulletin provides information on the work of the HIV Living unit. You are encouraged to forward this bulletin through your networks and members. You can read the bulletin as an email or as a PDF document (attached). Forthcoming bulletins will be archived and available through NAPWA by request.



NEWS IN BRIEF

This bulletin contains information pertaining to recent advocacy and activity of the HIV Living Unit and includes updates and information on priority activity, collaborations with other NAPWA Networks and a general communications section that includes information on upcoming events and activity.

In this issue we take a look at Federal Government deliberations over the continuation of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. We take a look at what's happening in regards to the Federal Government's Social Inclusion agenda and we look into a survey being conducted by Medicare – into its services for disabled. We also look across other NAPWA Networks and offer information on the Federal government's proposed National Women's Health Policy and we provide a number of links to upcoming events and conferences.



PRIORITY AREAS

CHRONIC DISEASE DENTAL SCHEME

A Chronic Disease Dental Scheme was introduced on 1 November 2007, for people with chronic conditions and complex care needs, whose oral health is impacting, or likely to impact on their general health.

Eligible patients can receive Medicare benefits of up to \$4250 in total over two consecutive calendar years for dental services, on referral from a general practitioner. Even though the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP announced the discontinuation of this service in March 2008, the legislation was not passed. As a result eligible people can continue to have access to this scheme (items # 85011-87777 in Medicare).

Consumers with chronic conditions where the condition causes deterioration of teeth (e.g. as a side effect of some medications which reduce saliva flow), or where their dental condition is

impacting on general health, should ask their GPs about the scheme. Not all may be eligible but it is worth asking about.

For more information go to our Positive Living website at

<http://www.napwa.org.au/pl/2008/11/dental-scheme-still-open>

DENTAL HEALTH

If you are one of those people who hate the dentist then you just need to find one you really like. Adrian Ogier found a few he liked and discovered what good dental care is all about. Read Adrian's article at <http://www.napwa.org.au/pl/2008/09/liaisons-with-the-dentist>

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT ON HIV AND DEPRESSION

This three year project adopted a comprehensive and multi-method approach to investigate the prevalence, nature, clinical management and self-management of depression among men, particularly homosexually active men, attending high HIV-caseload general practice clinics. To find out more, you can download the report at

<http://nchsr.arts.unsw.edu.au/pdf%20reports/Primary%20Health%20Care%20Project%20on%20HIV%20and%20Depression.pdf>

CRIMINALISATION

NAPWA is currently supporting a number of key academics and professionals who together are drafting an HIV and Criminalisation Monograph. The NAPWA Monograph brings together expert opinion on the complex area of HIV, disclosure, confidentiality and the law. It is anticipated that the Monograph will be launched in Canberra, mid 2009.

RESEARCH

The HIV futures six Survey is now closed. The report is now in production and will be available later this year. The report will be available online and from HIV health services and community organisations. You can email hivfutures@latrobe.edu.au to ensure you receive a copy of the report.

WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT

NAPWA has recently corresponded with Centrelink requesting information and clarification on Centrelinks commitment to community engagement. NAPWA is concerned that reformation of Centrelinks community engagement has left NAPWA with no established point of reference where the organisation is able to voice its concerns. NAPWA advocates that any changes need to be reviewed within a community consultation framework – such as that once offered through the Disability Customer Reference Group and the Centrelink Participation Reference Group (both in

which NAPWA had been represented). To view NAPWA's correspondence to Centrelink go to the NAPWA website www.napwa.org.au

SOCIAL INCLUSION

At the 2007 ACOSS conference, Julia Gillard announced Labor's intention to develop a 'Social Inclusion Agenda'. The Agenda will aim to address growing disadvantage in Australia. NAPWA has been engaged with this issue – primarily through our membership and representative attendance at a number of member and community forums conducted by ACCOSS.

A NAPWA representative will attend the Australian Social Policy Conference 2009- An Inclusive Society – Practicalities and Possibilities 8 – 10 July at the UNSW. For more information on the conference - go to the link in Conferences section below.

AFAO have drafted a Briefing Paper on the Social Inclusion Agenda - it can be viewed on the AFAO website at

http://www.afao.org.au/view_articles.asp?pxa=ve&pxs=170&pxsc=175&pxsgc=&id=708

POSITIVE SERVICES FORUM

AFAO is holding a national 'Positive Services' Forum in Sydney on the 11 and 12th June, 2009.

The forum aims to increase the capacity of the HIV community service sector to access mainstream agencies and funding, facilitate information sharing between organisations and to help to articulate a national priority list for advocacy, policy and research, to inform better practice in service provision and planning for people with HIV in Australia. A number of NAPWA representatives will attend the Forum.

It is anticipated that HIV & Ageing will be a major focus for discussion.



WHAT'S UP WITH MEDICARE SERVICES?

Medicare Australia wants to know about issues with their services or shopfronts which are affecting persons with disabilities. For example, the accessibility of their website might be bugging you, or the inaccessibility of the touch screen queuing console at your local shopfront. You might be impatient to get your GP surgery to install Electronic Claiming facilities so that you can get your reimbursement paid direct to your bank account before you leave the surgery.

You might have a problem with one of the other services which Medicare Operates : the Organ Donor Register; Family Assistance Office services; Australian Childhood Immunisation Register; Disaster Relief Payments; Teen Dental Scheme; Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, etc. Or you may feel that your knowledge about Medicare Australia services is so minimal that you want

them to give you some better feedback. You might have words of praise for the service you get in a shopfront. Feedback is welcome from specific Disabled People's Organisations and individuals. Anything at all will go into a feedback presentation to Medicare Australia managers at their next meeting with their consumer representatives.

Please get your feedback to AFDO representative on the Medicare Australia Consumer Consultation Group, Sue Salthouse, before the AFDO conference on 28-29 May. Sue may be contacted on: sue.salthouse@gmail.com or telephone: 0262916842

MENTAL HEALTH

What Do You Need? 2007-2008 National Survey of People with Diagnosed HIV: According to a new study published by Sigma Research; anxiety, depression, self-esteem, sleep and sex are the areas of life that pose problems to the greatest number of people living with HIV in the UK. They note that these problems relate to the intimate details of personal experience and quality of life, rather than to practical and physical problems. For more on this study see the synopsis at <http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/BAF2A3F3-86A2-4DD4-8872-168F3C487E57.asp>

For the full report go to <http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/files/report2009b.pdf>



COMMUNICATION

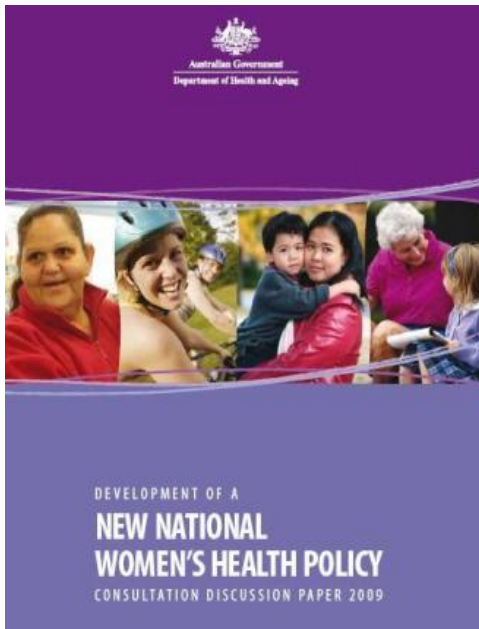
This is the Inaugural bulletin of the HIV Living Unit. It is intended that the Bulletin will be produced and circulated through NAPWA Networks on a quarterly basis. If you would like further information on any of the items in this issue, or you have any information you would like included in the quarterly bulletins please contact the HIV Living Project Policy Officer (Kate DeMaere) on (02) 8568 0311, or contact Scott Lockhart (NAPWA Networks Coordinator) on (02) 8568 0305 or email scott@napwa.org.au



OTHER NETWORKS

Federal government's proposed National Women's Health Policy

Extract from <http://www.wwda.org.au/bulletin.htm>



The Australian Government has made a commitment to develop a National Women's Health Policy as part of its social inclusion agenda. The purpose of the new National Women's Health Policy is to improve the health and well-being of Australian women, especially those with the highest risk of poor health. The new Policy will emphasise prevention, health inequalities and the social determinants of those inequalities.

The National Women's Health Policy Discussion Paper was launched at a National Roundtable Consultation, held at Parliament House, Canberra, on 12 March, 2009, and attended by 14 invited key stakeholder organisations. Women with disabilities were not invited to participate in this

Roundtable, despite the fact that disabled women not only represent one of the groups with the highest risk of poor health, but also experience major inequalities in health status, and significant disadvantage in the social determinants of those inequalities.

WWDA is deeply concerned at the exclusion of women with disabilities from this critical Roundtable Consultation. WWDA is also disappointed at the lack of accessible versions of the Discussion Paper. WWDA has written formally to the Federal Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon, outlining our concern and disappointment at the exclusion of women with disabilities from such a critical national policy development. WWDA has also written to the Federal Human Rights Commissioner and the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner. A copy of WWDA's letter to the Minister for Health is attached at the end of this Newsletter.

The National Women's Health Policy Discussion Paper is currently only available in PDF. It can be downloaded from the Department of Health and Ageing website at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/womenshealthpolicy> . Alternatively, if you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact WWDA at wwda@wwda.org.au



ALERTS

AFAO 'Positive Services' Forum in Sydney 11 and 12th June, 2009.



CONFERENCES

AFDO conference 'Policy - About Us, For Us'. The theme of this conference is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has 3 strands

- *Capacity Building - How do we make ourselves stronger?*
- *Monitoring - How do we keep an eye on what is happening?*
- *Liberation - What are the things we need to free us from our restricted lives?*

For more information go to: www.afdo.org.au

Australian Social Policy Conference 2009, An Inclusive Society, Practicalities and Possibilities, 8 – 10 July at the UNSW. <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2009/index.htm>

The 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (9th ICAAP) Bali, Indonesia, august 9th – 13th 2009. WWW.icaap9.org

Australasian Sexual Health Conference – Brisbane, 07 – 09 August 2009

Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference 2009 (21st Annual Conference for the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine) to be held from 9-12 September at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Queensland – go to <http://www.hivaidconference.com.au/> . The Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference 2009 was previously called the ASHM Conference. This new name reflects how the conference is now a strong National and Regional meeting. The ASHM Conference brings together the range of disciplines involved in HIV Management including Basic Science, Clinical Medicine, Community Programs, Education, Epidemiology, Nursing and Allied Health, Policy, Prevention, Primary Care, Public Health and Social Research.

5th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, Cape Town, South Africa – 19 – 22 July 2009 <http://www.ias2009.org/>

napwa national association of
people living with HIV/AIDS

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