

The Allison Kokany Consumer Scholarship

During her five years at WentWest, Allison Kokany was actively involved in several initiatives locally, as well as at state and national forums, advocating and supporting the rights of people with mental illness.

Allison was an official visitor to state mental health services for over 10 years, supporting people in long-term care and challenging mental health care conventions. She always showed the upmost respect for the people she represented and the professionals she worked with and as a result, had a vast and lasting impact upon the community. Sadly, Allison passed away in May 2018 after a valiant battle with cancer.

To honour the advocacy work and legacy of Allison, WentWest, as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) has launched the Allison Kokany Consumer Scholarship. The inaugural scholarship is suitable for individuals who represent or seek to represent consumers and/or carers of people who experience a mental health condition.

The scholarships will assist individuals who can advocate in various forums, on behalf of people with a lived experience. This advocacy includes providing the voice, perspective and experience of what it is like living with a mental health condition or, supporting and caring for someone who does.

Please see the WentWest website for more information on eligibility, procedure and terms and conditions.

Applications should be emailed to the Mental Health team at WentWest mentalhealth@wentwest.com.au. These applications will be reviewed by the WentWest Consumer Advisory Council and will be awarded twice a year if funds are not exhausted in the first round.



Events

Depression dilemmas

Saturday 22nd September 2018

9:00am - 5:00pm

My Health Record in pharmacy – Improving patient care

Tuesday 25th September 2018

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Basic diabetes education for practice nurses

Tuesday 16th October 2018

8:00am - 4:00pm

Medico-legal workshop: Privacy, confidentiality and data breaches

Wednesday 21st November 2018

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Other News

NSW Health alert: Invasive meningococcal disease

There has been a significant increase in invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by serogroup W (MenW) and serogroup Y in NSW since 2013. GPs should be alert for meningococcal disease symptoms in all ages.

NSW Health has released a health alert with more information. Please distribute this alert to all relevant staff in your practice.

R U OK? Day

Today, Thursday 13th September marks a national day dedicated to remind everyone that any day is the day to ask, “Are you ok?” and support anyone struggling with life pressures.

Suicide is a significant problem which not only affects those who take their own life but the people around them, including the wider community. WSPHN is encouraging GPs to recognise people at risk of suicide and to refer them to the right care at the right time.

More information about R U OK? Day can be found on their website.

My Health Record workshops

The Department of Health is partnering with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to

deliver GP-led presentations on the My Health Record in general practice. These workshops address questions that general practices may have regarding the expansion of My Health Record including likely affects to general practices and patients.

For details of workshops in your area, as well as links to the two-part webinar series and other My Health Record resources please visit the RACGP website.

GP Association meetings

The following GP Association meetings are coming up in western Sydney:

Blacktown: Diagnosing osteoporosis, Wednesday 19th September.

Westmead: Stroke GP updates, Wednesday 26th September.

Mount Druitt: Heart failure, Friday 28th Septmeber.

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