

Improving the Wellbeing of Pacific Communities

The Pacific Communities Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Collaborative Team was formed in June 2018 in response to concerns about the growing number of suicide deaths in the Greater Western Sydney Pacific community.

This initiative is the first collaboration of its type within Pacific communities in Australia and is jointly funded by the Western Sydney Primary Health Network, South Western Sydney Primary Health Network, the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network and the NSW Ministry of Health. As a result, the Pacific Mental Health Initiative was born to address the need for Pacific communities to access improved culturally responsive, evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention support and understanding.

The first component of the initiative is to address and improve Pacific Islander mental health literacy. The Pacific communities Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Collaborative Team offered four community members an opportunity to become Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Educators to support and improve the mental health literacy of the community. To assist the Pacific community, One Door Mental Health and the Western Sydney Recovery College will be coordinating free MHFA training to the community across the region. Details of the session times will be provided on the CommunityHQ website in due course.

The second component of the initiative is the Mental Health Talanoa (Talanoa means community consultation). This research project, conducted by the University of Wollongong was funded to identify the prevalence of mental health concerns in specific communities and identify the barriers that stop people accessing mental health services.

For more information about the Pacific Mental Health Initiative visit the [CommunityHQ website](#).



Events

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training

Tuesday 8th October 2019

6:00pm - 9:30pm

My Health Record Training on MedicalDirector

Wednesday 16th October 2019

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Conference: Obesity and Related Chronic Disease

Wednesday 16th October 2019

7:00am - 5:00pm

National Disability Insurance Scheme GP Workshop - Assisting Patients with a Disability

Wednesday 23rd October 2019

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Other News

Measles Health Alert

There has been a case of measles reported in Western Sydney, from an undetected source in the community. The resident spent time in Auburn, Guildford, Merrylands and Mount Lewis areas while infectious. Western Sydney Public Health Unit has released a health alert with more information. Please distribute this alert to all staff.

RACGP eHealth Webinar Series

The RACGP eHealth webinar series delivers monthly webinars on eHealth topics pertinent to general practice. Webinars are free of charge for all participants. Upcoming topics include:

☒Secondary use of general practice data ☒Social media and the use of apps in general practice ☒Using mobile devices for clinical photos in general practice These webinars are developed and delivered by members of the RACGP Expert Committee – Practice Technology and Management (REC-PTM) and other eHealth experts.

Hepatitis B Vaccines for Australians Fact Sheet

A new National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance fact sheet hepatitis B vaccines for Australians has been developed for health care professionals. Hepatitis B continues to be a public health problem in Australia, causing considerable morbidity and mortality. There were 497 reported deaths due to chronic hepatitis B virus infection in 2017. Vaccination is an effective prevention strategy against this disease. This fact sheet summarises key information about hepatitis B disease, epidemiology, clinical features and vaccination

recommendations.

GP Association Meeting

The following GP Association Meeting is coming up in Western Sydney:

Hills: Cardiovascular disease (CVD) Prevention in Primary Practice, Wednesday 9th October.

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