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VACCHO E-Alert

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the VACCHO E-Alert

If you would like more information regarding any of the articles or to submit information please email Robyn Bradley robynb@vaccho.com.au or telephone on 9419 3350.

The VACCHO E-Alert is available via our website at www.vaccho.org.au

Victorian Aboriginal Council of Koori Health (VACKH)

From July this year VACCHO will be chairing VACKH and will continue to use the committee to drive VACCHO's position on the COAG agenda, and the implementation of the Statement of Intent.

Nicole Huxley is the new VACKH Executive Officer. Nicole's role will be to provide support to the VACKH committee and Sub Committees including the newly established Eye Health Sub Committee. Nicole will also be assisting in other policy and media unit activities.

VACCHO members are strongly encouraged to participate in VACKH to support VACCHO's position and to provide reality checks on what is happening in the community.

The VACKH meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:

21st June

16th August

18th October

13th December

Time: 9.30 - 1.30pm

Congratulations VACCHO Members on Making the Medicare Health Assessments Project a Success!

The Workforce Issues Unit would like to extend a big congratulations and thank you to all the VACCHO's involved in the project and all the staff who undertook the huge increase of Health Assessments that were completed as part of this project. Over the course of the project an incredible 894 Health Assessments were completed.

QUMAX transition to PBS Co-payment Relief and the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive

As part of the COAG partnership agreement to Close the Gap for Aboriginal health outcomes, there are two changes coming into effect soon, which many of you will have heard something about already. The first is a series of incentive payments to health services for providing best practice chronic disease management to their clients, and the second is a change to the way PBS medicines are subsidised for Aboriginal people.

More information is available from:

- <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/pip/files/indigenous-health-incentive-guidelines.pdf> www.medicareaustralia.gov.au
- Nadia Lusic, VACCHO public health medical officer, NadiaL@vaccho.com.au
03 9419 3350
- Stan Goma, Pharmacy Guild QUMAX pharmacist stan.goma@vic.guild.org.au
0458 670 971

What's happening at VACCHO

Forums@ VACCHO

VACCHO Mental Health Forum

The VACCHO State-wide Koori Mental Health Forum is held twice a year and the next forum is to be held on 21 and 22 June 2010, in Bendigo.

The forum is primarily for Koori Mental Health Liaison Officers (KMHLOs) who work in mainstream hospital psychiatric services. (There are two positions which are located within ACCHOs.) The forum is an opportunity for KMHLOs to get together and for the host KMHLO to 'show-case' health services within their region. We extend the invitation to Aboriginal Health Workers including any Health/Mental Health workers who work with our Aboriginal Communities in this case, in the Bendigo and District region.

Please contact Nareida Wyatt at VACCHO on phone 03 9419 3350 or via email nareidaw@vaccho.com.au

Aboriginal Health Promotion Short Course

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's (VACCHO) Public Health & Research Unit is delivering an Aboriginal Health Promotion Short Course in Melbourne. The course will be held over 2 x 3 day blocks: 19-21 May and 23-25 June. The Aboriginal Health Promotion Short Course delivered by VACCHO includes current health promotion theory and practice as it relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria. A key aspect of the course involves participants working in groups to plan a health promotion program for one of three key health issues – smoking, physical activity and nutrition, or spiritual health and wellbeing. The aim is for participants to use these programs in their daily work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

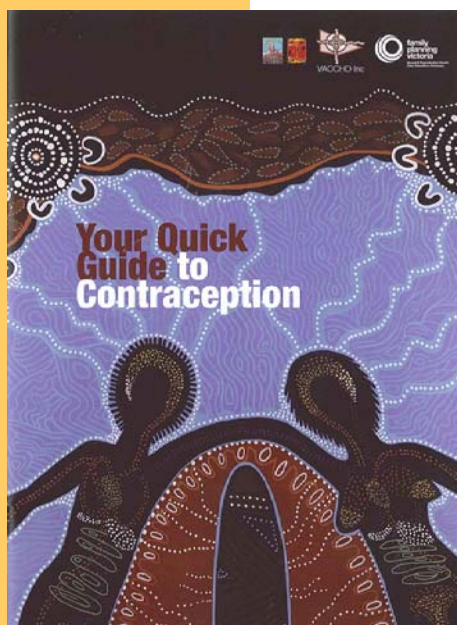
Please contact Nikki Merzliakov (AHPACC Coordinator) on 9419 3350 or nikkim@vaccho.com.au for further information.

Staff @ VACCHO

Lisa Dostis commenced working at VACCHO on February 22, 2010 as the Human Resources Officer. This position falls within the Administration area and provides advice and support to the CEO, Corporate Services Manager, Program Managers and staff on employment related matters and Occupational Health and Safety.

Lisa has over 10 years experience working in human resources and has previously worked in administration and Executive Administration roles.

Most recent positions held have been at Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre as Human Resources/OHS Advisor and in a variety of other industries including Education, Government, Banking, Not for Profit and private business.



Your Quick Guide to Contraception

Its your choice

When deciding which type of contraception is right for you, it is important to consider how it works and how reliable it is.

This guide explains:

- Key facts about contraception
- The different types to choose from
- How they work
- How effective they are
- Advantages and disadvantages

This is quick guide only. It will help you understand the choices available, but it doesn't tell you everything you need to know.

Please contact Peter Waples-Crowe or Simone Andy at VACCHO on 9419 3350 for enquiries regarding the guide.

Jobs@ VACCHO

Policy Officer

The position of Policy Officer is to support the manager of the policy and media unit in assisting VACCHO and its member organisations to develop local, regional, State-wide and national advocacy for the health for Aboriginal people in Victoria.

Mental Health Workforce Development Officer

This position sits within the Health Programs Unit

Improving mental health outcomes experienced by Aboriginal people, their families and communities is a key area of focus in the Victorian Government's recently endorsed *Because Mental Health Matters: Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009-2019*

Koori Maternity Strategy Project Officer

This position sits within the Health Programs Unit. VACCHO is funded to develop and implement the Koori Maternity Strategy (KMS). The KMS is part of a broader state government initiative – the delivery of the Koori Maternity Services through the Aboriginal Community Control Health Service's (ACCHS) who offers a range of maternity care to the Victorian Aboriginal Community. VACCHO Koori Maternity Strategy is responsible for supporting and advocating on behalf of the ACCHS to the Department of Health

Indigenous Health Project Officer

This position sits within the Workforce Issues Unit. This position is responsible for state wide leadership and coordination to support member organisations implement the range of Close the Gap Chronic Disease measures relevant to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector. The position will play a key role in establishing and maintaining an effective support network for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Indigenous Outreach Workers

Alcohol and Other Drugs Project Officer

In performing the role of the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Project Officer, the individual will be required to work closely as part of a highly motivated team in the Health & Wellbeing Unit and within the overall Health Programs to achieve better health outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities

Please refer to the VACCHO website www.vaccho.org.au or contact VACCHO on 9419 3350 for information regarding vacancies at VACCHO.

Q & A Vic 2010

Creating resilient, effective and visible leaders

An adaptive leadership program for established and emerging young, rural and regional leaders from gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex communities.

How do I get more information about Q & A?

For further information and application forms go to www.fpv.org.au or contact: Abigail Elliott at aelliott@fpv.org.au or on 0403 820 796.

Q & A Vic will commence in June 2010.

Job Advertisement

Chief Executive Officer

Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation has been established since July 1991 and provides services to the Indigenous community in South West Victoria. The services include Family Support, Health Services, Housing, Education, Employment, Land Management, and Youth and Cultural Activities.

For more information please see contact details below:

Linda Thompson, Human Resources / Safety
21 Scott Street, Heywood VIC 3304
PO Box 42, Heywood VIC 3304
Telephone: 03 5527 2051

More Investment in Closing the Gap for Aboriginal Victorians

From the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Tuesday, 04 May 2010

Closing the Gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Victorians is a key priority for the Brumby Labor Government, with the 2010 State Budget delivering an additional \$7 million in key programs to provide better services, promote new economic and cultural opportunities and support community leadership.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Richard Wynne, said the Brumby Labor Government would invest **\$2.3 million** over two years to provide for the development of stronger leadership, governance and management skills in indigenous communities.

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/10237.html>

Call for Young Aboriginal Achiever Award Nominations

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Richard Wynne is encouraging young Indigenous Victorians to nominate for this year's Ricci Marks Young Aboriginal Achiever Awards.

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/10202.html>

Indigenous Community Volunteers

ICV is a not for profit organisation providing Indigenous Australians with new skills. Communities, organisations or individuals identify their skill needs. ICV then matches volunteers to address those needs. Volunteering with ICV is not only about skills transfer, it's about mutual learning and cultural exchange.

<http://www.icv.com.au/>

\$10.7 million to combat Indigenous smoking

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon today announced 14 sites across the country will benefit from a \$10.7 million funding round to promote innovative anti-tobacco campaigns and prevention strategies.

<http://www.warrensnowdon.com/media/20100305.htm>

83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers to be placed around the nation

National efforts to close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation received a boost today with the announcement of 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker placements across Australia.

<http://www.warrensnowdon.com/media/20100217.htm>

2010 State Budget

I am very pleased to update you about the 2010 State Budget.

It is a Budget that invests in the vital services that matter, protects the lifestyle of Victorian families and plans for the future.

This year's centrepiece is a record \$4 billion boost to Victoria's hospitals and health that will provide new hospitals, more hospital staff, more ambulance services and extra hospitals beds.

It also provides 1,966 more police on the frontline – the biggest one-off boost to frontline police in the State's history.

Follow link below for full budget details:

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/budget-10.html>

John Lenders
Treasurer of Victoria