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Country SA News December 2021 Edition



Message from the CEO

Kim Hosking

Yet another challenging year draws to a close. We have all learnt to ride the COVID-19 roller coaster and while the ride has had twists and turns for us all, it's important to acknowledge and recognise that some of us have had more loop the loops on this roller coaster than others. The need to look out for our families, friends and colleagues has never been more important.

Country SA PHN continues to commission Regional Access, a free professional telephone and online counselling service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for people 15 years and older living or working in regional South Australia. <https://saregionalaccess.org.au/>

A diverse range of mental health services are operating across country South Australia. Country SA PHN commissions a broad range of services across our communities to accommodate from mild to severe mental health conditions. They include targeted support for young people, those in residential aged care facilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the LGBTQI+ community and CALD communities. Country SA PHN continues to collaborate with our service providers on suicide prevention. We have expanded support to headspace and continued suicide prevention services in our capacity under the National Suicide Prevention Trial as well as maintaining psychosocial mental health support activities across rural and remote South Australia.

Country South Australian primary health care providers continue to work on the front line against COVID-19, while continuing to provide care for all the existing services and support that we rely on. We thank them for their ongoing work in an uncertain and untested environment.

From all of us at Country SA PHN I wish everyone a relaxing and safe holiday season and a happy new year.

Permanent telehealth to strengthen universal Medicare

The Australian Government is investing \$308.6 million to strengthen Australia's primary care health system, building on our significant investment and reform to date. Telehealth will become a permanent feature of primary health care, which has been transformational to health care delivery and underpinned much of the Government's successful COVID-19 response.

Primary health care is a key pillar of our health system. As the first point of contact for most Australians, our primary health care system is the front line for patients and their families, managing complex and chronic health conditions and reducing demand on specialist services and emergency departments.

[Read more...](#)



ACRRM - New incentives to support the recruitment and retention of rural GPs

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) welcomes new incentives to support the recruitment and retention of rural General Practitioners (GPs) and Rural Generalists (RGs), announced by the Federal Government.

The elimination of Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt for graduate doctors working in rural and remote regions, and the expansion of Distribution Priority Areas (DPA) for MMM3 and higher, are important steps to help address workforce maldistribution issues in rural and remote Australia.

ACRRM President Dr Sarah Chalmers says these new initiatives are part of a bigger suite of incentives needed to attract doctors to work outside the urban footprint, adding the College looks forward to more initiatives being introduced in the lead up to the Federal Budget which is expected to be delivered in March 2022.

"We are off to a good start," Dr Chalmers says.

"Imagine having your university fee debt paid off; what an incredible burden to have lifted at the start of your career!"

This incentive will come in effect from 1 January 2022, providing immediate relief for medical graduates who have an outstanding HELP debt for all or part of their qualification, have

successfully completed their internship, be Post Graduate Year 3 (PGY3) or higher and received registration as a medical practitioner.

Doctors will need to have spent half their degree length in MMM6 - 7, or the full term of their length of degree in MMM3 - 5 to have all their debt waived. They will receive partial debt elimination if they have worked for half the specified time periods across these locations.

"To have this come into effect so quickly is good timing for the College as it begins recruiting for Fellowship Training in 2023, under a college-led Training model," Dr Chalmers says.

"We are also pleased to see District Priority Area (DPA) exemptions for MMM3 and MMM4, come into effect from 1 January 2022.

"These exemptions are currently only available to doctors and practices in MMM 5 - 7 and we know that there are regions outside of this that are feeling the stress of not having enough rural GPs to fulfil their community's healthcare needs.

"The DPA enables International Medical Graduates working in rural areas to access Medicare in those areas, meaning practices will have an expanded pool of eligible GPs to recruit from.

"We welcome the announcements and will continue to work with government to advocate for systemic changes that will attract and retain more doctors in rural and remote communities where they are needed most," Dr Chalmers says.



**Australian College of
Rural & Remote Medicine**
WORLD LEADERS IN RURAL PRACTICE

Allied health case conferencing

From 1 November 2021 new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items are available for eligible allied health practitioners participating in multidisciplinary case conferences with medical practitioners.

The new items apply to non-admitted patients under the care of an eligible allied health practitioner for:

- Chronic disease management under the care of a General Practitioner (GP) in either community or residential aged care settings.
- Early diagnosis and treatment for children under 13 years with, or suspected of having, a pervasive developmental disorder (including autism) or an eligible disability, under the care of a specialist, consultant physician or GP.

For more information visit the [website](#) or watch the recent [webinar here](#).



Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT)

Country SA PHN is providing funding for general practices in country SA to access and use the ERPT. An up-to-date plan which best positions your practice to appropriately prepare for, respond to and recover from, the impacts of emergencies with your community.

The ERPT is managed by Healthpoint ANZ and was developed in collaboration with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

How does it work?

The critical information entered into the ERPT is used to create an emergency response plan which is individually tailored to your practice, providing a roadmap to recovering from emergencies.

Maintaining an up-to-date emergency plan helps ensure the safety of your staff, the smooth recovery of your practice and reduces the risk of financial loss.

To ensure business continuity, the ERPT provides suggested contingency measures for staff so that, in the event of an emergency, they will know how to respond to:

- a pandemic
- loss of power supply to the practice
- disruption to water and gas supplies
- disruption to telecommunications systems
- loss of IT systems or data
- loss of business records
- complete or partial loss of practice premises
- loss of medical supplies, equipment and furniture
- loss or non-availability of key staff
- COVID-19 safety plan.

Be prepared for the harsh Australian summer with the **upgraded ERPT**

The Australian summer is fast approaching, bringing with it increased bushfire and flood risk.

The recently upgraded Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT) assists general practices to prepare for and respond to these and other emergencies.

The ERPT now offers additional modules for assessing risk, business continuity planning and pandemic planning, including a COVID Safety Plan. Having a completed plan by summer will ensure your practice has contingency measures in place should the unexpected occur.

For more information and/or to sign up, visit erpt.racgp.org.au



ERPT EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
PLANNING TOOL

 **RACGP**

Shingles Recall Pilot Program

In 2016, there were 2,677 hospital admissions for shingles in Australia. The rate of admissions increases as age increases.

The Shingles vaccine, Zostavax, is available free of charge on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for patients in Australia aged 70-79 years. The program has been partially successful in that approx. 50% of patients in this age group haven't received the shingles vaccine. The Shingles Recall Pilot Program aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a GP Practice-initiated recall in this patient group.

GoShare Integration with CAT4 Healthily have integrated GoShare functionality with CAT4, to create GoShare Plus. This will enable a general practice to generate a list of unvaccinated patients and send an SMS with an embedded link to an information video and fact sheet. The entire process can be completed in 5-10 minutes, representing a very efficient method for a practice to communicate with a target patient group to promote a specific health outcome.

The Practice Support Team recruited 21 practices in country South Australia to participate in the Pilot in September and October 2021. To date, 2,521 patients have received the recall SMS and just under 600 patients have been vaccinated - a 24% response rate overall.

Broughton Clinic who participated in the Pilot had a 64% response rate. Dr Alison Edwards from the Clinic said "Our data search showed we had 490 patients from the 70-79 age group who had not had a shingles vaccine. SMS messages were sent to this cohort encouraging them to contact the clinic to make an appointment to discuss and if appropriate proceed with a shingles vaccine. We also recognised that not all patients had mobile phones and so a staff member called those with only a landline to offer them an appointment. We also spent an afternoon at the Residential Aged Care Facility vaccinating those in this age group as well. The Pilot has been a useful reminder to target this age group with shingles vaccination as well as pneumovax which has been another of our targets in recent years."



*Broughton Clinic Staff Dr Christine Lee,
Marie Manners (Practice Nurse), Dr Alison Edwards &
Dr Neville Witford*



*Dr Alison Edwards administering the Zostavax
vaccine to a patient*

Exciting and flexible opportunity – GP Clinical Editor with HealthPathways SA

Country SA PHN is seeking motivated and enthusiastic General Practitioners with rural experience for the position of HealthPathways General Practitioner (GP) Clinical Editor.

Joining Dr Simon Lockwood, Dr Chris Moy, Dr Helena Williams, Dr Muazzam Rifat, Dr Katrina Couchman, Dr Toni Maldari and Dr Mai Duong alongside the rest of the HealthPathways SA team, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the state-wide development and implementation of the HealthPathways SA program.

Going live in March 2018, HealthPathways SA now has over 250 localised pathways of care across areas such as chronic pain, anxiety in adults, cervical screening, opioid withdrawal, headaches in adults and many more. Our team works with local specialists and subject matter experts to publish pathways of care that reflect the South Australian context to health professionals with easy access to comprehensive, evidence-based assessment, management and localised referral resources for specific health conditions.

The successful candidate will work collaboratively with a variety of health professionals and organisations across SA to develop pathways of care for publication to the HealthPathways SA website. Working up to a maximum of 40 hours per month, the role is very flexible and can be adjusted to suit schedules.

Essential requirements to apply for this position are:

- Current registration as a medical practitioner with experience working as a GP in South Australia
- Knowledge of the health care system in SA including key service providers and individuals
- Knowledge of rural, remote and community health issues relevant to country SA
- Strong analytical skills with an ability to distil information from a complex range of sources

[To apply click here.](#)

For a confidential discussion about this role, please contact Helen Exley, System Integration and Design Manager on 08 8159 2212 or 0427 767 210.

Applications close 5pm, Sunday 16 January 2022.

For information about HealthPathways SA, please visit:

<https://saproject.healthpathwayscommunity.org/>



Country SA Region Remote Practice Network

The Practice Support Team have provided numerous remote practice network meetings over the past three months providing the practices the opportunity to receive information from Country SA PHN and for practice staff to network and brainstorm during this very demanding time.

Before the meetings pause over the Christmas period it has been suggested for the team to schedule a meeting for all of country SA practices to join. The meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday 22nd December 12.30pm-1.30pm**. An invitation has been forwarded out to all practices.

For further information please email support@countryasaphn.com.au and a member of the Practice Support Team will contact you.



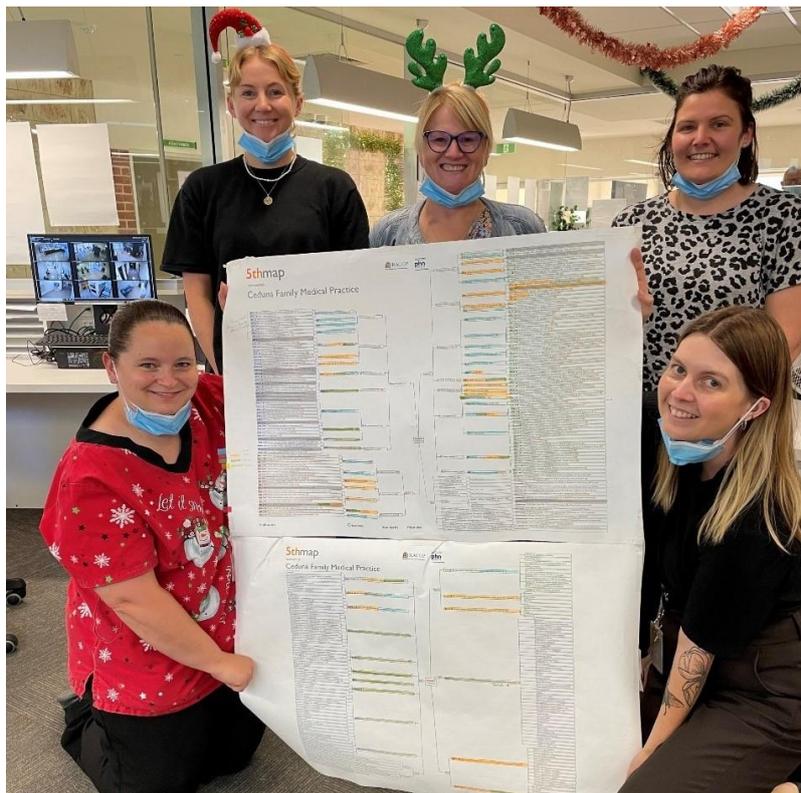
Eyre and Far North Local Health Network Practices

The Practice Support team have been assisting and guiding Ceduna Family Medical Practice for over 12 months on a weekly basis to achieve accreditation against the RACGP 5th Standards.

Leeann Harbridge who is the Business Manager of Medical Services for the SA Health practices for the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network region has advised "the Country SA PHN Practice Support Team have been instrumental in getting the practice over the line in meeting accreditation"

Assisting the practices in the accreditation process was the 5th Map Accreditation Tool which Country SA PHN has funded and supplied to general practices in country South Australia. The Tool encourages a "whole of practice" involvement. Other support provided by the Practice Support Team included PenCS training to the practice staff focusing on data quality in line with the PIP QI Incentive payment.

Continued concentrated support of the SA Health practices in the future will consist of the management of care plans across the Eyre & Far North Local Health Network region.



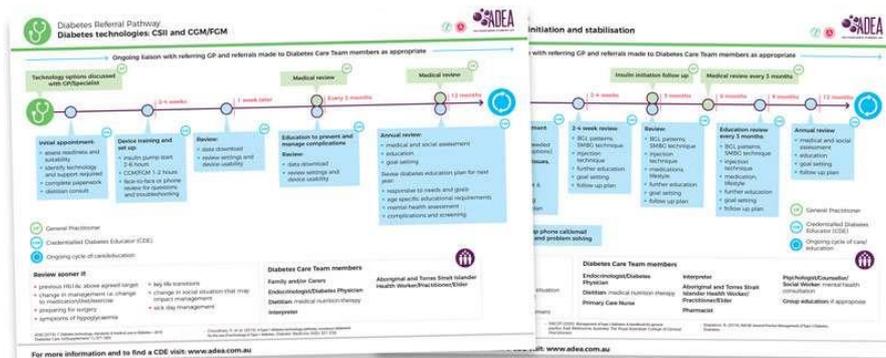
The Practice staff at Ceduna Family Medical Practice holding the 5th Map Accreditation Tool. The 5th Map assists the staff of the roles and responsibilities allocated to GPs, Nurses and Administration Staff which assisted the practice to achieve accreditation with a whole team approach.

Pathways to effective diabetes care: How to utilise GMPs and TCAs to implement the Annual Cycle of Care

General Practitioners (GPs) are central to the care of people living with diabetes including coordinating multidisciplinary teams. While this can be complicated, understanding all of the resources at your disposal and how to access the correct MBS item numbers can make it easier. By working with a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) as part of a Team Care Arrangement (TCA), you can ensure that your patient receives all the appointments and checks they need to optimise their diabetes management and reduce their risk of developing diabetes complications.

CDEs are Medicare-eligible health professionals who are experts in diabetes education and management. CDEs work closely with GPs and are an integral part of TCAs to support people in selfmanaging their diabetes, overcoming challenges, and leading their healthiest life possible.

[Read more...](#)



Triage in general practice webinar

The current workforce shortage of GPs in regional areas can mean longer wait time for appointments. Non-clinical reception staff are the first point of contact so clearly defined roles and responsibilities within a "whole of team" approach is vital to ensure the right patients are seen at the right time.

Practice Support Officer Jane Williams has over 40 years' experience as a Practice Manager and has worked as an accreditation co-surveyor in general practice with over 900 visits across Australia.

As part of Jane's role for Country SA PHN a webinar presentation on Triage in General Practice has been recorded and can be accessed via the Country SA PHN Health Connections Community platform to support staff in general practice.

The webinar provides information on the following topics:

- What is triage, what is the purpose and why is it important in general practice
- The core principles of triage and who is responsible
- Evidence of triage in Accreditation and the RACGP Standards (5th Edition)
- Types of triage and system components
- Continuous Quality Improvement Policies
- Identifying vulnerable patients
- Communicable diseases
- Communication strategies and screening questions

- Risk management and review

As part of accreditation, triage policies and procedures need to be regularly reviewed against the RACGP standards and this webinar provides information to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities for all clinical and non-clinical staff. Detailed information is provided on the triage process ensuring consistent decision-making equating to effective risk management to meet accreditation requirements.

If you are not currently registered to access the Health Connection Community Platform please contact the Practice Support Team at support@countryssaphn.com.au.



Clinical Prioritisation Criteria Consultation

The SA Health Outpatient (OP) Redesign Workstream continue to work towards the development of a South Australian statewide Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) to support a state-wide redesign of our Specialist Outpatient Services system.

Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) and Local Health Networks (LHNs) continue to work closely together through the Outpatient Redesign Steering Committee to increase systemwide governance, improve transparency, and enable data access and data-led decision-making to reduce the longest public waiting time for OP services. SA Health is developing consistent and publicly available Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) for specialist outpatient services, based upon the successful model introduced in Queensland.

The SA CPC have been developed in partnership with the DHW and specialised clinicians for use by referring practitioners and general practitioners (GP), to help referrals into the South Australian public hospital system based on clinical criteria. The CPC are clinical decision-making support tools that assist in ensuring patients referred to public specialist OP services in SA are seen in order of clinical urgency and accepted based on standardised statewide referral criteria.

The CPC aim to ensure that:

- There is transparency of OP criteria between LHNs, primary care and the public.
- GPs and other referrers have accurate and consistent specialty referral criteria and diagnostics required to support patient focussed decision making.
- Patients have accurate and consistent specialty referral criteria and categorisation to improve their health literacy and enable informed decision making.
- There is equitable assessment of patients regardless of where they live.
- Specialist outpatient appointments are delivered in order of clinical urgency.
- Patients are ready for care at their first specialist outpatient appointment.

- Referral and communication processes improve between referrers (e.g. primary care) and specialist outpatient services.
- Increased referral quality by LHNs being transparent in the information and diagnostics required to support timely access to the most appropriate care.

DHW OP Redesign Team has been engaged with CPC Clinical Pathway Groups, with membership across medicine and surgery, nursing and allied health developing the proposed CPC. The CPC consultation process is now opened for five clinical specialities.

- Cardiology
- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Neurology
- Orthopaedics
- Vascular

I would like to invite you as key stakeholders, and subject matter experts of this project to consider contributing by providing feedback on the proposed CPC's. The five CPC's ready for consultation, can now be accessed on the [Clinical Prioritisation Criteria](#) website. If you would like to discuss the CPC Project further, please contact Dr Melanie Smith, GP Liaison COVID-19 Project and Operations via Health.COVID-19GPLiaison@sa.gov.au. We are now entering a six week consultation period on the draft CPCs, with feedback closing on 7 January 2022.

I would like to specifically thank the LHN GP Liaison Officers, Dr. Mai Duong, Dr. Jackie Yeoh and Dr. Chad Collins for their extensive involvement in developing this important piece of work for the South Australian community.

Dr Emily Kirkpatrick Deputy Chief Medical Officer Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Department for Health and Wellbeing SA Health



Cancer Screening Grants

Applications are still open for the 2021-2022 Cancer Screening Grants Program. This funding is provided to increase participation in cervical screening (particularly self-collection) and/or bowel screening for eligible people in vulnerable groups.

General Practices servicing areas of low socio-economic status or other vulnerable groups are encouraged to apply for Clinic Extension Grants (up to \$5,500 GST exempt) to run out of hours or outreach clinics.

Community groups with existing connections to vulnerable groups are encouraged to apply for Small Community Grants (up to \$1,100 GST exempt) or Strategic Partnership Grants (up to \$5,500 GST exempt), depending on the scale of the proposed project.

Please note that the Aboriginal Men's Screening Grants will be advertised via a separate process and that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Well Women's Screening Program has already been allocated for this financial year. **Applications close 5pm Friday 25 February 2022.**

For more information, go to <https://www.wellbeingsa.sa.gov.au/engage-with-us/grants-funding/cancer-screening-grants>



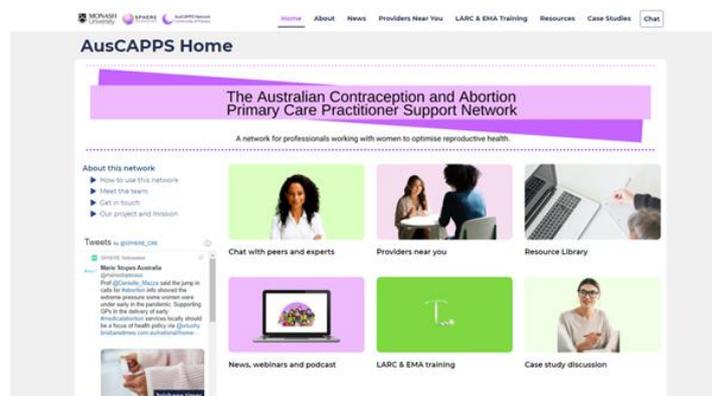
Invitation to join the Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPS) Network

AusCAPPS is an NHMRC funded online network developed in partnership with the RACGP, RANZCOG, APNA, the PSA, and other key stakeholders to support GPs, practice nurses and community pharmacists in providing contraception and abortion care.

The network will allow you to connect and chat with like-minded peers and expert clinicians, find local providers and keep up to date with the latest training opportunities, research, and resources.

To get involved, register at www.medcast.com.au/communities/auscapps - AHPRA verification required. Please contact ausCAPPS.trial@monash.edu if you have any questions.

This project is in collaboration between Monash University, The University of British Columbia, The University of Sydney, The Centre of Excellence in Rural Sexual Health, La Trobe University, Family Planning NSW, Marie Stopes Australia and SPHERE CRE.



Initial contact visit to families with newborns

The Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) provides regular health and development checks for all children aged 0-5 years living in South Australia and we would like to inform you about a recent change to these checks.

CaFHS will now be offering two appointments as part of our initial contact with families following the birth of an infant; at 1-4 weeks of age, following discharge from hospital, and at around 6-8 weeks. The purpose of the second appointment is to offer support with sleep, settling and feeding, and to screen for postnatal depression and domestic and family violence. If it has not already been done by a GP or Paediatrician, the CaFHS nurse will also conduct all parts of the 6-week check as documented in the "My Health and Development Record" (The Blue Book), with the exception of the cardiovascular check. The family will be encouraged to see their medical practitioner to complete a cardiovascular examination.

What this means for GPs

There should be no change in the number of infants seen by GPs for a 6 week medical check. If a family has had the 6-8 week health check conducted by CaFHS, these details will be contained in their Blue Book and doctors will only be required to conduct the cardiovascular examination.

For further details or questions visit www.cafhs.sa.gov.au or email feedback@cafhs.sa.gov.au.



Neurology ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Program launched

SAPMEA will be commencing the Neurology ECHO Network in February 2022 for a seven session series.

Dr Adelaide Boylan, GP and Lecturer in Medicine at Adelaide Uni, will be facilitating this series joined by an esteemed panel of expert neurologists, nurse practitioners and consultants, clinical pharmacists and physiotherapist from across SA's tertiary neurology departments.

Project ECHO® helps primary healthcare providers to manage complex patient presentations by sharing knowledge, disseminating best practices, and supporting integrated care.

Neurology ECHO aims to support the release of SA Health's Clinical Prioritisation Criteria. The CPCs are clinical decision-making support tools that assist in ensuring patients referred to public hospital outpatients are clinically categorised and accepted based on standardised statewide clinical referral criteria. Consultation is now open for the [Neurology adult CPC](#).

[Learn more and register](#) today to become a member of this community of practice! Participation is free, and eligible RACGP participants will receive 40 points (Cat 1) for a Reviewing Performance activity under the Peer-Group Learning model. ACCRM members will be eligible to receive Case Discussion Credits under the Performance Review Category.

Not heard of Project ECHO® before? [Visit SAPMEA's website](#) to learn more about the global ECHO™ movement.



National Disability Gateway

Around 4.4 million Australians are living with disability and there are a wide range of services and supports available. However, searching for information and services can sometimes be difficult and complex.

The Australian Government's Disability Gateway is a free, Australia-wide service dedicated to helping people living with disability, their families and carers find trusted information and connects them to services in their area.

It includes:

- a website
- phone line and
- social media channels to help connect people to the right disability information and services.

The Disability Gateway aims to improve access to information and services and make searching less stressful. It is a central starting point, providing information people can trust that is accessible, easy and safe to use.

Information on the website is structured around 10 topic areas that provide useful categories for searching for and finding services, including income and finance, employment, aids and equipment, housing, transport, health and wellbeing, everyday living, education, leisure, and rights and legal.

The Disability Gateway phone line provides free, fact-checked information and can transfer people directly to other support services if needed, such as counselling or advocacy.

For more information go to www.disabilitygateway.gov.au or call **1800 643 787**. The Disability Gateway phone line is available Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm AEDT.



Fleurieu water quality – change to chloramine

The disinfection method of mains water provided across the Fleurieu Peninsula is in the process of being changed during December by SA Water from chlorine to chloramine.

This change applies to the mains tap water supplied to around 25,000 homes and businesses across Victor Harbor and Encounter Bay through to Chiton, Hayborough, Port Elliot, Hindmarsh Valley, Middleton, Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island, as well as Willunga, Sellicks Beach and parts of Aldinga Beach. People in Yankalilla, Normanville, Carrickalinga and Myponga Township are already receiving chloraminated tap water.

Drinking water requires disinfection to ensure its safety, and tap water supplied to premises throughout South Australia is required to comply with the authoritative reference for drinking water quality in Australia, the [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines \(2011\)](#).

Only very small amounts of chloramine are used in drinking water disinfection, and the changed drinking water across the Fleurieu Peninsula will be closely monitored to ensure it complies with all the requirements of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and the [WHO Guidelines for Drinking water quality](#), which include the guideline amount for chloramine in drinking water.

Over 200,000 South Australians have been supplied with chloraminated water for many years and very few complaints are received. However, similarly to chlorinated water, a limited number of individuals may experience skin irritation from chloraminated water.

These personal responses are occasionally received by our office and can occur to various types of environmental exposures. In the case of drinking water, these responses more commonly take the form of skin rashes or irritation from showering. It should be noted that complaints of this nature are not unique to chloraminated supplies, as we also receive occasional reports about skin rashes and irritations associated with showering in chlorinated water.

We generally advise people with such queries, seek medical advice from their GP or healthcare provider.

Depending on the individual circumstances, those presenting with irritations which are confirmed as relating to their drinking water may wish to consider installing a point-of-use treatment system. The most common point-of-use of filtration devices are under-sink units typically fitted to kitchen taps. The only variation for chloraminated supplies is that rather than standard carbon filters, individuals should install filters containing catalytic carbon which is more effective in removing chloramines. These are available from a few manufacturers.

Chloramines have been used to disinfect drinking water supplies in South Australia since the early-1980s, and is used successfully to maintain safe drinking water. Chloramines were originally introduced in South Australian drinking water supplies in the 1980s to control the growth of the potentially fatal organism *N.fowleri*, which was endemic in a number of supplies. It was highly effective in virtually eradicating the organism. Chloramination has also been shown to be effective against other organisms such as *Legionella*, which commonly grow in building plumbing systems.

Chloramination is currently used in drinking water supplied to most of the mid North of SA, Pt Pirie, Pt Augusta, Whyalla, the Yorke Peninsula, southern Adelaide Hills and Tailm Bend-Keith. It is also used to disinfect the Sydney and Brisbane drinking water supplies, as well as, major international centres such as Singapore and London.

For detailed information about the change to chloramine, please visit sawater.com.au or contact project@sawater.com.au.



Apply now to study Health Policy at the University of Sydney

Applications to commence postgraduate study in [Health Policy](#) in Semester 1 2022 close on **31st January 2022**.

Postgraduate studies in Health Policy, taught in collaboration with the [Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics](#), are designed to increase capacity and value of anyone working – or planning to work – in health services, policymaking, leadership or health policy research. Graduates of this program are equipped to work at a high level across the health sector, whether it be in government and policy roles, leading health services, or working in advocacy, strategy, political advisory, regulation, or business development.

There has never been a more important time to study health policy and our graduates gain a comprehensive and practical understanding of health systems and policymaking, including policy analysis; health economics; health financing and budgets; power, politics and agenda setting; and the critical use of evidence. Throughout this program, students work closely with experts in the public, private and non-government sectors to gain an understanding of roles in the health system, and build national and international professional networks.

The accelerated Master in Health Policy program is 1-year full-time, or equivalent part-time and builds on your existing experience. The program is available fully online through our interactive online learning environment, giving you the flexibility to tailor your study schedule around your lifestyle. The program is offered at three award levels – graduate certificate, graduate diploma and master's degree to suit your professional and personal needs. These three courses are embedded, allowing you to step from one to the next at your own pace.





Spectrum's "Borderline Personality Disorder - A Practical Guide for General Practitioners" edited by Josephine Beatson and Sathya Rao is an essential educational resource for General Practitioners who treat patients with Borderline Personality Disorder. To purchase a copy [click here](#).

Forward with Dementia is a new, evidence-based program and website co-designed with people living with dementia, carers and health professionals to provide effective, tailored support for the 12 months following a dementia diagnosis. The website is divided into three sections, tailored for people with dementia, carers and health professionals. [Click here](#)

Get ready for the new Health Provider Registry (HPRy), with a new registry on the way, now is the time to make sure your information is up to date and you are prepared for the new system when it is launched. It was anticipated that the new system would be ready in November. Due to unanticipated circumstances, we now expect the release to take place early in the New Year. [Read more...](#)



Full-time General Practitioner

The Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service is an RACGP clinically accredited service that provides culturally appropriate comprehensive primary health care, health promotion and education programs for the Aboriginal Community in Whyalla. In 2019-2020 we had 1,430 Aboriginal clients.

Nunyara is looking to attract the services of a full-time general practitioner to join our team of Aboriginal Health Practitioners & Workers, other General Practitioners, Nurses, Allied Health professionals and visiting specialists.

The General Practitioner position would require the incumbent to work from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and ideally provide hospital inpatient services to Nunyara clients. Whyalla Hospital is located 10-15 minutes from Nunyara's premises and provides an Emergency Department, General Medical/Surgical facilities, OBS/Gynae, Chemotherapy, cancer support, palliative care, renal dialysis, orthotics, allied health, respiratory service, EEG, Jones & Partners radiology, SA Pathology, COVID-19 testing, and Mental Health Unit.

An attractive salary is available with the flexibility to either work as an employee of Nunyara or as a contractor under an ABN. Other benefits such as corporate vehicle and accommodation may be negotiated in consultation with the CEO and Practice Manager.

The incumbent must be vocationally registered as a GP and demonstrate a commitment to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and, as a member of a multi-disciplinary team, apply primary health care principles and health promotion services to address the health needs of the community.

A job description is available by visiting www.nunyara.org.au/careers, or for further information contact Deb Hanley, Practice Manager on (08) 8649 9900. An immediate start is available, please send a resume to reception@nunyara.org.au to register your interest in this exciting opportunity.

Great Opportunity for Rural GP

Due to the recent departure of one of our GPs we are looking for an enthusiastic and committed rural GP to join this long standing practice in the beautiful rural town of Minlaton on the Yorke peninsula about 200 kms from Adelaide.

The practice currently comprises 3 GPs (totalling approximately 2.3 FTE). You will need to be committed to rural medicine, have general or specialist registration with AHPRA, have a strong team ethic and looking for an opportunity to be part of this close-knit rural community by working in our highly regarded general practice.

The practice also comprises a co-located accident & emergency centre. So in addition to having a wide experience of working in rural general practice, you will also need to be experienced in emergency medicine.

The practice is in a DPA/DWS location so GPs who have not yet started and/or completed their Medicare 10 year moratorium are still eligible to work here from a Medicare perspective.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who wants to make a difference to the health of rural communities. If you feel you have what it takes and would like to apply please send your CV and covering letter to michael.chalk@adelaide.edu.au.

If you would like more information about the position please phone the Practice Manager, Heather Joraslafsky on 08 8853 2001 or the CEO, Michael Chalk, on 0409 392 991 who will be happy to provide you with additional information.

If you would like to see a short video about this opportunity please go to <https://youtu.be/OS6dviaGas0>



For more professional development opportunities go to www.countrysaphn.com.au

Central Region

**Focused Psychological Strategies:
Advanced Management of Anxiety
Disorders - Barossa**

Friday 25 March 2022, 5.00pm - 9.00pm to
Sunday 27 March 2022, 8.30am - 5.30pm

[Register Here](#)

North & West Region

Depression Dilemmas - Port Lincoln

Saturday 26 March 2022
9.00am - 5.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Metro Region

**Neonatal Advanced Life Support
and Common Problems in
Neonatology - Flinders Medical
Centre**

Friday 11 March 2022
8.00am - 4.45pm

[Register Here](#)

**2021 APNA Conference
Roadshow - Adelaide**

Monday 21 March 2022 to
Tuesday 22 March 2022

[Register Here](#)

Webinars

Working with male victims of DV

Thursday 20 January 2022
9.00am - 12.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Mental Health Reimagined

Friday 4 March 2022, 5.30pm - 7.30pm to
Saturday 5 March 2022, 9.30am - 5.30pm

[Register Here](#)

e-Learning

**A GP framework for infant and early
childhood mental health assessment
(0-5 years)**

This infant and child mental health assessment and management e-learning course focuses on the identification, assessment, care planning and support required for children aged 0-5 at risk of or experiencing mental health difficulties. The course is built around three key areas of evidence-based practice – research evidence, practitioner experience, and child and family partner feedback. [Register Here](#)

**Pre-pregnancy planning and care
for women with diabetes**

Online course for health professionals developed as part of the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS). Three e-learning modules cover key aspects of planning and preparing for pregnancy for women with type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Four non-assessed case studies have been incorporated into the modules to assist learners with applying the content to their practice. [Register Here](#)





YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Calling for expressions of Interest – Clinical Advisory Group for STI-BBV OLM Review and Update

ASHM is currently seeking the expertise of nurses and midwives to join a Clinical Advisory Group who will be responsible for the review and update of an online learning module (OLM) called Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses: Nursing Modules. As a member of the Clinical Advisory Group, you will be asked to provide recommendations on learning outcomes and the curriculum, as well as contribute to the review of this e-learning resource such as updating epidemiological data, interactive quizzes, relevant assessment etc.

Remuneration will be offered to those who are involved. To express your interest, please click the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BNFTB2J>

Please submit your expressions of interest submissions close Friday, 18 February 2022.

Please email sabdy.ma@ashm.org.au or phone 0411 539 615 for further details or with any questions you may have.

More support for primary healthcare nurses

APNA has launched its 2021 Workplace Survey, to inform government policy and give primary healthcare nurses a voice coming into the 2022 federal election.

If you're a nurse working outside of a hospital, it's more important than ever to ensure you're heard. It is the only national survey of primary health care nurses and their workplace and professional needs. It should take you about 28 minutes to complete.

And don't forget, by completing the survey you go into the draw to win a \$1,000 Red Balloon voucher.

Click here to complete the survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6608519/366abba34877>

GPs knowledge, attitudes and prescribing intentions for e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid

Researchers at Monash University are investigating GPs attitudes and prescribing intentions in regards to e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid. A significant change to policy impacting the availability of nicotine for use in e-cigarettes in Australia took effect from 1 October 2021. This means that liquids containing nicotine for use with e-cigarettes will only be available by prescription from a health care provider.

This study will highlight information and training needs of GPs and help guide policy and contribute to guideline development that informs the potential role and place of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation alternative.

You are invited to take part in a short 5 minute online survey that aims to understand the current levels of general practitioner's knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and prescribing intentions in respect to e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid. Participants who complete the survey are able to enter a prize draw to win one of three \$500 gift vouchers.

If you wish to complete the survey, you can do so by clicking on the link provided below https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ag8fNDCZ5DJ82rk

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Country SA PHN would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands across Australia and pay respects to the Elders past present and future. We recognise and respect the unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, which continue to be important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living today.

Country SA PHN gratefully acknowledges the financial and other support from the Australian Government Department of Health.

[Click here](#) to update your subscription preferences.