

NEWS, NOTICES & CONFERENCES

Community Outreach Program Awards 1995

The Inner South Community Health Service is pleased to announce that it has been nominated as the State Winner and the National Winner in the 'Incentive' category for the 'Beyond the Walls - Mental Health in the Community Award'. This award is sponsored by a number of organisations, including the Victorian Hospitals' Association, the Australian Hospital Association, and P & O Health Services.

The Inner South Mental Health Program (ISMHP), based in community health centres in Prahran, South Melbourne and St Kilda, is an innovative, dynamic and integral part of the Inner South Community Health Service. The winning report demonstrates how the ISMHP operates by describing its model of service delivery and featuring some of the elements of its success. The experiences of clients of the program, community agencies, and support workers are highlighted.

An important companion to the written report, *Inner Snapshots*, is a short video of the same title, which captures visually the diversity of the program's activities and its extensive community linkages. The video locates the program in its local community, the Inner South of Melbourne, an area with unique geographic and demographic features. *Inner Snapshots* portrays accurately the essence of the innovative disability support program, and its 'fit' with the community health service and the broader local community. The video has been made with the active support of clients, and highlights program successes and activities, and pays tribute to the abilities and talents of both clients and staff, who, together, have gone 'beyond the walls'.

The State Winner Award will be presented at the Annual Victorian Hospitals' Association Conference in Melbourne, 30 November - 1 December 1995.

The National Winner Award will be presented at the Australian Hospital Association National Conference, 'Care and Competition: Are they Compatible?', in Adelaide, 25-27 October. A representative of the Inner South Community Health Service will be attending the Conference as part of the award.

Karen Sait, Mental Health Program Manager. Inner South Community Health Service.

Copies of the winning report, *'Inner Snapshots'*, are available for \$10.00 from:

Program Manager
Mental Health
Inner South Community Health Service
240 Malvern Rd
Prahran, Victoria, 3181
AUSTRALIA

The Queensland Primary Health Care Reference Centre

The Queensland Primary Health Care Reference Centre is a joint initiative of the University of Queensland (Departments of Social and Preventive Medicine and Psychiatry and Queensland Health (Program Development Branch)). With a state-wide focus, the overall aim of the Centre is to raise the profile and level of understanding of primary health care among health workers, educators, researchers and the wider community.

Dr Robert Bush was appointed recently as Director of the Centre. He was formerly the Acting Director of the National Centre for Education and Training on Addictions at The Flinders University, and begins his new appointment in November 1995.

As part of its commitment to quality training in primary health care, the Reference Centre has developed two initiatives. The Graduate Certificate in Health Studies (Primary Health Care), a one-year, part-time course, aims to develop both conceptual understanding and practical skills. It has a multidisciplinary focus and includes a significant mental health component. The full-fee course requires weekly attendance at lectures in Brisbane but alternative formats are planned.

Working together to improve health: A team handbook

Working together to improve health: A team handbook is a resource for teams or groups from a wide range of health and health-related settings who want to develop more effective ways of improving health in their communities. Developed by Miranda Roe in collaboration with the Centre, the Handbook contains learning, problem solving and planning activities based on issues which are relevant to all health care workers. Copies are available from the Queensland Primary Health Care Reference Centre. (See Review by Denise Fry in this issue).

For more information on the Centre, contact: Dr Fran Boyle, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, The University of Queensland, Medical School, Herston, 4006. Tel (07) 3365 5465 Fax (07) 3365 5442

A Primary Health Care Casebook

A Primary Health Care Casebook is being compiled by the Yangualla Rural Health Training Centre based in Rockhampton, Central Queensland. It will contain details of primary health care initiatives from the Central and Central West Health Regions of Queensland which cover the area from the eastern seaboard between Gladstone and St Lawrence to the Queensland border with the Northern Territory and South Australia. Details on its availability in later issues.

Brisbane's First Community Health Plan Takes Shape

Brisbane City Council's first Community Health Plan is nearing completion. The Plan, which will cover the city's South East Region, is seen as a forerunner of plans for the Council's other three regional health areas.

The Plan is being co-ordinated by the Council in recognition of its close links to the community, and its influence and ability to lobby other tiers of government on behalf of the community. Its development follows a \$10 000 grant through the Queensland Healthy Cities and Shires Project, funded by the Health Advancement Branch, Queensland Health, and auspiced by the School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology.

Community health is a shared responsibility, and while it can have a positive influence, the Council recognises that it is not the sole provider of support services and networks, hence the involvement of key health providers in the co-ordination of the Plan.

The Community Health Plan is based on the model of Municipal Health Plans, which is a legislative requirement in every municipality in Victoria. As part of a review of the Queensland Health Act, there is a proposal that Community Health Plans become mandatory requirements of local government. The aims of the Plan are to: enhance the health of the community within Brisbane's South East Region; improve the level of co-ordination between community health agencies; and clarify the role of Brisbane City Council in providing health services to the community.

The community, through a needs assessment, identified approximately 140 issues of concern. From these, a list of 18 priority issues has been established and strategies will be developed in response to these. This will provide a powerful base from which to guide existing programs within Council, or as Council is not the sole provider, to steer Council in advocating actions on behalf of the community.

The first draft of the Plan is available from October, 1995. Contact: Ren Winders, Community Health Branch, Brisbane City Council. Tel (07) 3403 6133 Fax (07) 3403 5250.

Conferences

6th Annual Primary Health Care Conference, 'Primary Health Care: Working Together', 23-24 November, 1995, Novotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW. Information: Faculty of Nursing, Cumberland, University of Sydney, (02) 646 2590.

VHA Annual Conference, 30 November - 1 December 1995, Carlton Radisson, Melbourne, Victoria. Information: Rutna Djeng, VHA Conference Co-ordinator, PO Box 365, South Melbourne Victoria, 3205.

6th Australian Community Health Association National Conference, 'Widening the Net', 28-31 July 1996, Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart, Tasmania. Registration Forms available in February 1996. For information on presentations: Contact Julie Roach (002) 28 8206, Carole Owen (002) 21 6697, or Ian Lennie (02) 389 1433. Deadline for abstracts: 1 December 1995.