

THE NSW MEN'S HEALTH NETWORK

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The Men's Health Network (MHN) was established in early 2000, following recommendations made in *Moving Forward in Men's Health*. It consists of representatives from all area health services in NSW (Table 1). The chief executive officers from all 20 area health services were requested to nominate a men's health representative. Some areas had an existing representative, while others sought nominations from staff members interested in men's health issues. The MHN is coordinated through the Men's Health Information and Resource Centre (MHIRC), which provides advice and support to the MHN.

MEN'S HEALTH NETWORK WORKSHOPS

The first MHN workshop was held in June 2000, bringing together men's health representatives from all the area health services. At this workshop, representatives were asked to identify the needs and issues of men's health in their area, to describe existing programs, resources and perceived barriers to men's health. The outcomes of the first workshop fall into four categories: networking, research, establishing ongoing MHN workshops on a regular basis, and planning for Men's Health Week.

Networking

The workshop established an email group (or list server) for the benefit of the MHN, as a vehicle for discussing and sharing ideas, issues, innovations, and initiatives in the area of men's health. The list server is now well established and is regularly used by members. A database containing contacts for groups and individuals dealing with men's health issues has also been created and is available to all MHN members.

Research

In order to stimulate debate on research priorities, and to encourage future research, the Workshop agreed that the MHN would also foster opportunities for the dissemination of current research findings, study designs and methodologies.

Ongoing workshops

The MHN workshops are held on a regular basis, approximately every six months, and most recently in June 2001 and November 2001. These workshops are an important vehicle for men's health representatives to consult on policy developments, become acquainted with new research projects and share initiatives in service delivery. The workshops also contributed to planning for the men's health conference and indigenous men's health convention held at the University of Western Sydney in September this year.

Planning for Men's Health Week 2000 and 2001

The workshops assisted planning for Men's Health Week held during September 2000 and 2001. The workshops also helped generate publicity for Men's Health Week, with a series of radio and television interviews, newspaper articles and media releases. The workshops also facilitated the production of two Men's Health Week posters titled *Men's Health Matters* and *Men's Health – who cares?*, as well as postcards on topical issues that were widely distributed throughout NSW.

CONCLUSION

The Men's Health Network provides men's health representatives from numerous service agencies with opportunities to exchange information. Feedback from participants has been positive. It is anticipated that this networking will have a positive effect on the delivery of men's health services in area health services. In this way, the Men's Health Network hopes to enhance men's and boy's health. ☛

TABLE 1**MEN'S HEALTH NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NSW AREA HEALTH SERVICES**

Area Health Service	Representative	Email	Telephone	Alternative Representative	Email	Telephone
Ambulance Service of NSW	Howard McIlvanie		9320 7777			
Central Coast	Mark Spierings	mspierings@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	4320 3876	Anthony Smith	amsmith@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	4349 4819
Central Sydney	Greg Millan	greg.millan@email.cs.nsw.gov.au	9515 3313			
Corrections Health	Carol Denne	carol.denne@dcs.nsw.gov.au	9289 5487			
Far West	Lyn Hamilton	lhamiltonFWHS@doh.health.nsw.gov.au				
Greater Murray	Dalton Dupuy	dalton.dupuy@swsahs.nsw.gov.au	6058 1731			
Hunter	Matt Dogherty	m.dogherty@hunter.health.nsw.gov.au	4924 6756	David Jordan	djordan@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	
Illawarra	Glennis Ogden	ogdeng@iahs.nsw.gov.au	4275 4600			
Macquarie	Henry Alberts	halbe@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	6841 2222	Katie Stephens	kstep@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	6881 2212
Mid North Coast	Graham Fazio	gfazio@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	6551 6822			
Mid West	(To be nominated)					
New Children's Hospital	David Bennett		9845 0000	Gabrielle Mulcahy		
New England	Karen Edwards	kledwards@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	6776 4874	Gordon Cope	gacope@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	
Northern Rivers	Vahid Saberi	vahid@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	6620 2462	Gerard Williams	gerryw@nrhs.health.nsw.gov.au	042 849 0305
Northern Sydney	Graham Stone	gstone@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	9976 9860	Alan Grochulski	agrochul@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	9926 7912
	Jeffrey Crumpton	jcrumpto@doh.health.nsw.gov.au	9926 8905			
South Eastern Sydney	Ross Johnston	johnstonr@sesahs.nsw.gov.au	9314 6022			
South Western Sydney	James Mabbutt	james.mabbutt@swsahs.nsw.gov.au	9828 5944			
Southern	Kate Lohse	kate.lohse@sahs.nsw.gov.au	6299 1725			
Wentworth	Michael Orchard	orcharm@wahs.nsw.gov.au	4734 3984	Clarke Scott		4759 8700
Western Sydney	John Kurko	john_kurko@wsahs.nsw.gov.au	9840 3708			