



Public Health Bulletin

● Volume 1
● Number 1-5
● May, 1990

Published by the
Department of Health, NSW
Sydney, Australia

ISSN 1034 7674

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN FOR NSW

INTRODUCTION

The first of the new Public Health Bulletins signals a revival of the role of public health in the New South Wales health services. In recent years, the attention given to this role, and indeed to the training of a public health workforce, has lagged behind that given to the high profile public hospital system. With the creation of a Public Health Division, a strong Epidemiology Branch and Public Health Units in all Areas and Regions, the opportunity now exists to demonstrate the contribution that a strong public health service can make to the entire health system.

In keeping with national initiatives such as an increase in the number of universities offering training in Public Health, the creation of the Public Health Research and Development Committee of National Health and Medical Research Council, and the proposed Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, it is recognised that Public Health will only reach its potential if greater attention is given to the development of a well trained and informed workforce.

As responsibility for health programs devolves further to Regions and Areas, it is critical that attention is given to communication mechanisms which will ensure that information on major health issues is disseminated across the state. Accurate and timely information is needed to target programs appropriately, to monitor trends in mortality, morbidity and the provision of health services, and to facilitate evaluation of programs and health practices.

This monthly Bulletin will be of variable length, depending on the availability of suitable material. It will include tabulations of notified infectious diseases; information on public health policy, programs, and evaluations; analyses of existing datasets, results of special investigations; news from Public Health Units (see article p.2); letters to the editor; and information on resources available.

It will be distributed to Areas and Regions, hospitals, interested medical practitioners, major laboratories, universities, professional colleges and other state health departments. It is hoped that this bulletin will assist the development of a vibrant public health network in NSW.

Sue Morey, FRACP FRACMA MPH
Chief Health Officer,
Department of Health, NSW

Contents

- 1 *Introduction*
- 2 *Improved Public Health — Table 1*
- 3 *Infectious Disease Notifications 1988-1990 — Tables 2, 3, 4*
- 4 *Laboratory Surveillance of Infectious Disease — Table 5*

Correspondence

Please address all correspondence and potential contributions to:

*The Editor,
NSW Public Health Bulletin,
Public Health Division,
Department of Health, NSW
P.O. Box K110,
Haymarket NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 217 6168
Facsimile: (02) 217 5602*