Global Gazette Disability

October – Mental Health Month

Report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services

http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-reports/review-of-mental-health-programmes-and-services.aspx

The Commonwealth Government tasked the National Mental Health Commission with conducting a national review of mental health programmes and services. The focus of the review was on assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes and services in supporting individuals experiencing mental ill-health and their families and other support people to lead a contributing life and to engage productively in the community.

The ultimate goal of this Review was to make a set of recommendations for Government to consider, that will create a system to support the mental health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities in ways that enables people to live contributing lives and participate as fully as possible as members of thriving communities.

This included programmes and services which have as a main objective:

- The prevention, early detection and treatment of mental illness;
- The prevention of suicide;
- Mental health research, workforce development and training; and/or
- The reduction of the burden of disease caused by mental illness.

The Review provides 25 recommendations across nine strategic directions which guide a detailed implementation framework of activity over the next decade. Taken together, they form a strong, achievable and practical plan to reform Australia's mental health system. The Review is framed on the basis of making changes within existing resources, as specified by the Terms of Reference provided to the Commission by the Commonwealth Government.

View the Review by section:

Summary (WORD – 3145KB) / (PDF – 605KB)
An overview of the findings and recommendations of the *National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services*

Fact Sheet - **What this means for NGOs** (WORD – 216KB) / (PDF – 318KB)

You can download a ZIP file of the full *National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services* HERE (30MB).

Commissioned reports

As part of the review process a number of supporting reports were also commissioned. These reports were commissioned as inputs to inform our work and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Mental Health Commission. You can view the reports here:

- Improving the integration of mental health services in primary health care at the macro level, Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHCRIS)
- Advice on Innovative Technologies in e-Mental Health, Young and Well CRC
- Final report on workforce requirements, Human Capital Alliance (International) Pty Ltd(HCA)
- Paving the way for mental health: The economics of optimal pathways to care, KPMG
- An economic model of mental health care pathways: Methodology, KPMG
- Advice and recommendations: Specific challenges for regional, rural and remote Australia, University of Newcastle
- Regional, rural and remote mental health services: challenges, inequities and opportunities (Technical Report), University of Newcastle
- Expert advice on specific challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' mental health (Background), HMA
- Expert advice on specific challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' mental health (Final Report), HMA
- Strategic Priorities for Mental Health Research, eContext

Disability News

Mental health services—in brief 2014

Mental health services—in brief 2014 provides an overview of data about the national response of the health and welfare system to the mental health care needs of Australians. It is designed to accompany the more comprehensive data on Australia's mental health services available online at http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au. AIHW catalogue number (HSE 154). View the media release and download the full report for free online.

Mental health services in Australia / tranche 5 website update

Updated sections of the website are:

- Mental health-related services provided by general practitioners
- Mental health services provided in emergency departments
- Admitted patient mental health-related care (excluding 'use of restrictive practices during admitted patient care' component of this section which will be updated on the 17th of December 2014)
- State and territory community mental health care services
- Residential mental health care
- Technical notes
- State and territory summary tables

The updated sections can be viewed online at http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au.

Featured Conference

15 - 16 September 2015

26th PANDDA 2015 Conference,

Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia.

Novotel Hotel, Parramatta, NSW.

www.pandda.net

Queensland's most vulnerable benefit with early NDIS launch

The Queensland Government has announced funding of close to $2 million for an early launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in the 2015-16 State Budget.

The launch forms part of the $1.547 billion 2015-16 Disability Services budget, an increase of $82 million from the previous financial year. This is in addition to $52 million for Queensland seniors and pensioner concessions in 2015-16 and $2 million over four years for seniors' wellbeing, participation and safety.

Minister for Disability Services and Seniors Coralee O'Rourke said establishing an early NDIS launch in Queensland was a key election commitment, after Queenslanders missed out on a trial under the LNP.

"The NDIS is the biggest social reform since Medicare, changing the lives of people with disability and creating up to 13,000 jobs in the state's disability sector," Mrs O'Rourke said. "It's essential Queenslanders are ready for this transition, and an early launch will allow us to test the roll-out process and see how the scheme will operate in Queensland," she said. "This will give us vital information about how we can transition to the full NDIS across the rest of the state from 1 July 2016."

Mrs O'Rourke said the Budget also recognised the importance of suitable accommodation for people with disability, which the Federal Coalition Budget did not address. "We've allocated almost $25 million for a range of initiatives that will provide housing accommodation options for people with disability across the state," she said.

Read the full Media Statement at http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2015/7/14/states-most-vulnerable-benefit-with-early-ndis-launch-and-seniors-boost

Housing for young people with mental health needs

Gendera, S., Fisher, K. R., Clements, N., & Rose, G. (2013). Evaluation of the Time Out House Initiative in Queensland [Final Report] (SPRC Report 20/2014). Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia.

The unusual aspect of the Time Out House Initiative (TOHI) in Queensland was temporary residential support for young people with early mental health needs. In practice, the outreach and case management became the focus of the support for most young people, instead of the house. Read Report ...

The structural drivers of homelessness in Australia 2001–11
Web page

Gavin Wood, Deb Batterham, Melek Cigdem, Shelley Mallett 22 July 2015

Source: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Homelessness is highly concentrated in particular regions, especially those with high proportions of men, sole parents and indigenous persons—suggesting policy-makers need to target these groups and locations. Contrary to expectations, rates of homelessness were lower in areas with weak labour markets and higher where there was affordable housing. Even so, longer term solutions for homelessness should consider ways formerly homeless people might access affordable housing in stronger labour markets.

This project involved descriptive analysis and modelling techniques to understand the structural drivers of homelessness, using data from three Census periods (2001, 2006 and 2011). The project utilised data from the ABS Census of Population and Housing, the Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) Collection from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and other relevant data.

Homelessness is found to be highly spatially concentrated, with 42 per cent of the nation's homeless population concentrated in only 33 of the 328 regions (i.e. 10% of all regions) in 2011. By contrast, such regions received only 34 per cent of homelessness resources (in terms of SHS capacity). While this spatial mismatch of resourcing has lessened over time, redressing this imbalance is an important area for policy attention.

Homelessness is concentrated in particular urban areas and remote regions of Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory, with regions with higher shares of males, sole parents and Indigenous persons having higher rates of homelessness. There was weaker evidence of homelessness being linked to younger populations with this mainly being an urban phenomenon. Policy-makers might seek to target these demographic groups and regions.

Contrary to expectations, modelling results suggest that areas with high homelessness do not have a shortage of affordable housing (rather they tend to have an abundant supply). Furthermore, weak labour markets (i.e. with higher unemployment) were associated with lower per capita rates of homelessness. Tentative explanations for these puzzling results point to the fact that low-income, low-rent areas have a higher population at risk of homelessness. Relatively fewer people are at risk of homelessness in higher income, lower unemployment regions but they are more vulnerable if they exit housing (since there is a lack of affordable housing in those locations). Homeless people might also migrate to such areas seeking work. Provision of affordable housing in such suburbs might partially address this problem.

Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 193: What is driving homelessness in Australia?
362 KB PDF Document

Final Report: No. 238: The structural drivers of homelessness in Australia 2001–11
1.9 MB PDF Document

Final Report: No. 227: The spatial dynamics of homelessness in Australia 2001–11

- See more at: http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/p53027#sthash.Foi5zHW9.dpuf

Disability Issues In The Media

Cash to consumers: what we can learn from overseas
Australian Ageing Agenda news item
As Australia moves towards more individualised funding approaches in home care, Community Care Review looks at the implementation of personal budgets overseas for some valuable lessons. Many international schemes are primarily for people with disabili8ty.
http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2015/06/02/cash-to-consumers-what-we-can-learn-from-overseas/

Mental health services underestimated in dementia response: RANZCP
Australian Ageing Agenda news item
Psychiatrists have expressed concern over the lack of a nationally coordinated approach to dementia and mental health policy development and said Australia is lagging behind other countries.

Free direct subscription available at http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/subscribe/

Featured Organisation

PANDDA

Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia

A national professional body for nurses in the sector and membership is open to Registered, Enrolled and Assistants in Nursing. Student nurses are welcome to join. Members receive a newsletter and discounts at the annual conference.

www.pandda.net

15 - 16 September 2015
26th PANDDA 2015 Conference,
Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia.
Novotel Hotel, Parramatta, NSW.
www.pandda.net

Disability News

Self-advocacy and inclusion: a summary of the study 'What can be learned from speaking up over the years'

Christine Bigby 21 July 2015 Living with Disability Research Centre (LaTrobe)

This paper provides an overview of the methods and synthesises findings from an ARC Linkage project that explored Self Advocacy and Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities and considers the implications of the findings in the context of the National Disability Strategy (Commonwealth of Australia, 2011) and reforms to the disability service system thorough the introduction of the NDIS (2013).

This study has demonstrated the significant contribution that self-advocacy groups make to the social inclusion of individual members and in furthering the inclusive capacity of communities. Self-advocacy groups are hybrid organisations with few parallels.
• They are not simply about advocacy - standing up for the right of their members or supporting people to speak up and stand up for their own rights.
• They are not simply peer support or self-help groups – sharing experiences of occupying a common social position and fostering the emotional growth, skills and well-being of members.
• They are not simply one of the many clubs or societies that make up civic society and constitute the glue that binds communities together - offering membership to those with common interests or shared passions, opportunities to meet people and make friends and a sense of belonging and participation in meaningful activities.

Self-advocacy groups do all of these things well and they are fundamentally important to the social inclusion of people with intellectual disability. They have the potential to transform individuals' lives and contribute to social change in society. Based on rich qualitative data from a small number of groups, this study has provided the evidence for these claims.

Read the paper on Self Advocacy

Disability News

Rental Affordability Snapshot 2015

Anglicare Sydney's 2015 Rental Affordability Snapshot analysed 14,955 rental properties in Greater Sydney and the Illawarra on the weekend of 11-12 April 2015. The research report clearly shows most properties in the private rental place very low to moderate income families in rental stress.

New research by Anglicare Sydney shows less than 1% of Sydney rental homes are considered to be both appropriate and affordable for households on Government income support payments.

Anglicare Sydney's Rental Affordability Snapshot analysed **14,036** properties that were available in Greater Sydney on the weekend of 11-12 April 2015. Of the **14,036** properties advertised, only **58** were affordable and appropriate for households on income support payments without placing them into rental stress.

"Most of the people who turn to organisations like ours for help are living in the lowest 40 per cent of income distribution and encounter great difficulties finding safe, affordable and appropriate housing in the private rental market," says Anglicare Sydney Director of Advocacy and Research, Sue King.

Despite a 2,000 increase of listed properties this year, no properties were considered to be affordable and appropriate for single people on Newstart, Disability Support or Youth Allowance.

"The NSW Government must recognise social housing as essential infrastructure and have firm social housing building targets that will see 20,000 dwellings built over 10 years," urged Ms King.

"**Sydney has a desperate lack of social housing supply with more than 59,000 NSW households currently on the waiting list.** This is hardly surprising as there is an estimated overall shortfall of 100,000 affordable and available dwellings across NSW for individuals and families on very low to moderate incomes."

People on the minimum wage fared a little better. For families with both adults earning the minimum wage, there were 2,248 affordable and appropriate properties available.

However, tor single parents on the minimum wage, there were substantially fewer suitable properties available, with only 66 properties being both affordable and appropriate. The prospects for single people on the minimum wage were even worse, with only 55 properties across the city.

ANGLICARE Sydney's Rental Affordability Snapshot is part of a national project carried out by Anglicare Australia to assess national rental affordability for low income households.

To learn more about the challenges low income earners face when looking for affordable rental properties please read our Media Release, download our Infographic and download our 2015 Rental Affordability Snapshot.

Scholarships & Fellowships News

Grants of up to $12,000 for women in the health care sector

At the recent announcement of the National Industry Scholarship Grant Initiative that will support the development of women leaders in the health care sector, the Hon. Julia Gillard praised the national initiative for its important role in enabling the advancement of women into higher levels of leadership.

Following an overwhelming response from health care sector women to a preliminary release of scholarship funding in March this year, the initiative will now be rolled out nationally across 2015 and 2016.

From July 1st 2015 the initiative will provide women in the Health care sector with grants for leadership development. http://www.wla.edu.au/scholarships-national-industry-scholarship-initiative-snapshot.html

More specifically, grant applications are open to women employed in the Health care sector at two levels.

1. Senior level and high potential women leaders can apply for $12,000 Individual Grants to undertake the Advanced Leadership Program http://www.wla.edu.au/scholarships-senior-level-managers.html
2. Emerging and mid-level managers can apply for $4,500 Individual Grants to undertake the Accelerated Leadership Performance Program http://www.wla.edu.au/scholarships-mid-level-managers.html

Disability News

'Staying alive': transport to treatment for people living with a chronic disease

Council of Social Service of New South Wales
15 February 2015 | This report focuses on the unmet health transport needs associated with two of the most prevalent chronic diseases impacting individuals, families, communities in our society: cancer and chronic kidney disease. Australian Policy Online article

Books & Publications

Promoting Public Mental Health and Well-being

C. Mackereth, J. Brown, A. Learmonth. An exploration of the social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors that affect mental health and well-being on a societal and individual level, and how can mental health be enhanced through effective prevention and intervention? This book sets out key strategies, and case studies demonstrate principles in practice. Essential reading for mental health and public health professionals and students. Paperback / softback 2014, 304pp ISBN: 978-1-84905-567-3.

[Disability support services: services provided under the National Disability Agreement 2012-13](#)

In 2012–13, Australian governments spent $7.2 billion on disability support services under the National Disability Agreement. More than 312,500 people used services during this time. The most common services users were people with intellectual, physical and psychiatric disabilities.

[A Practical Guide to Delivering Personalisation](#)

Helen Sanderson, Jaimee Lewis. This is the comprehensive guide to delivering personalisation in health and social care using person centred approaches. It covers what personalisation and person centred approaches are, the different elements involved, and how to carry it out with all those receiving care and support, from people with disabilities to people at the end of life. 2011. ISBN: 978-1-84905-194-1.

[Overcoming Anxiety and Depression on the Autism Spectrum](#): [A Self-Help Guide Using CBT](#)

Lee A. Wilkinson. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) has been shown to be effective for treating mental health problems such as anxiety and depression in individuals both with and without autism spectrum disorders. This book bridges the gap between research and practice and shows adults on the spectrum practical ways to manage their emotions. 2015, ISBN: 978-1-84905-927-5.

[A Practical Guide to Mental Health Problems in Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder](#)

Khalid Karim, Alvina Ali and Michelle O'Reilly. This book explores the relationship between mental health and ASD. Illustrating with case studies a wide range of mental health issues commonly found in autistic children, the authors go on to suggest practical strategies for parents and professionals to help ameliorate the difficulties which arise from these co-morbid mental health conditions. Paperback / softback 2013, 288pp ISBN: 978-1-84905-323-5.

[The Autism Spectrum and Depression](#)

Nick Dubin. In the first book on depression written for adults on the autism spectrum, Nick Dubin offers accessible and sensitive advice on how individuals can manage their emotions, exploring what can lead to them feeling down, how this can escalate, and how to take positive steps towards recovery. 2014, ISBN: 978-1-84905-814-8.

[Person-Centred Thinking with Older People](#): 6 Essential Practices

Helen Sanderson, Helen Bown, and Gill Bailey. Person-centred practices are a key way to provide the best possible care and support for older people and help them to be active and valued members of the community. Drawing on a wealth of experience of working with older people, the authors present the 6 essential person-centred practices. Each of the practices is designed to support the individual and put what is important to and for the person at the forefront of their care. his practical book will be a valuable resource for care staff, social workers and healthcare workers who want to learn about person-centred practices to deliver best practice care and support. 2015. ISBN: 978-1-84905-612-0.

Policies & Guidelines

Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws (ALRC Report 124)

This Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry examined laws and legal frameworks within the Commonwealth jurisdiction that deny or diminish the equal recognition of people with disability as persons before the law and their ability to exercise legal capacity.
A [Summary Report](#) is also available.
This publication is [available for purchase](#) in book format.
This Report is avaliable in HTML, PDF and EPUB (ebook) format. http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/equality-capacity-disability-report-124
PDF version http://www.alrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/alrc_124_whole_pdf_file.pdf
We have also produced an [EASY ENGLISH](#) summary.

[Three-year deadline to transition young out of residential care: senate](#)

The federal and state governments would set up a joint taskforce to oversee the transition of all young people living in residential aged care into appropriate alternative accommodation by June 2018, under proposals put forward by a Senate inquiry. Australian Ageing Agenda article

Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002: final report

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (Australia) 10 July 2015

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) allows the Australian Government to make standards to ensure that people with disability are not discriminated against, and to provide information about these standards. The purpose of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards) is to enable public transport operators and providers to remove discrimination from public transport services.

Part 34 of the Transport Standards requires the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, in consultation with the Attorney-General, to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Transport Standards within five years of them taking effect, with subsequent reviews every five years. This report of the Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (this review) assesses how accessible public transport systems are to people with disability.

An accessible public transport system is also important for planning for Australia's ageing population. In 2012 there were around 3.3 million older people (aged 65 years and over), representing 14 per cent of the population. The Transport Standards also help to ensure Australia meets its international obligations. The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008 reflects the Australian Government's commitment to promoting and supporting the equal and active participation by people with disability in economic and social life.

Download the report at Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 Report

Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002: government response

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (Australia) 10 July 2015
The Australian Government recognises that access to public transport is critical for people with disability in order for them to participate fully in community life and the economy. The Australian Government is committed to reducing discrimination against people with disability and to improving accessibility to public transport in collaboration with state and territory governments. The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 seeks to drive a more inclusive approach to the design of policies, programs and infrastructure so that people with disability can participate as equal citizens in all areas of Australian life. An important outcome of the Strategy is for people with disability to live in accessible and well-designed communities where transport systems are accessible for the whole community.
The Australian Government therefore welcomes the findings of the second legislated review of the Transport Standards which reports on the effectiveness and efficiency of the standards 10 years after their introduction.
Read the full response at Accessible Transport Government Response
Source: **Australian Policy Online.** Subscription is free at http://apo.org.au/subscribe

Directories Online

Independent Living Centres Australia

Independent Living Centres Australia (ILCA) is a collective network with member ILC's from each Australian state and the ACT. Each state organisation assists a wide range of people from all walks of life.

Information about products and services to help people remain independent and improve their quality of life.

Directories of Independent Living Centres as well as products and suppliers in Australia.

http://ilcaustralia.org.au/

Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show **with Ross** (Your Editor of the Global Gazette**)**
Proudly sponsored by Global Disability & Health Care Services
Tuesday night 9 to 12 pm for all Australian blues, roots, jazz, folk and contemporary music. Weekly studio guests. Blues, Folk and Jazz Gig Guide and music.
Internet Radio Streaming worldwide online at www.alive905.com.au [follow the Listen Live links]
Over 150 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show.
The studio guests coming up include: = Kevin Johnson, Dave Tice, Tony Cini's Arc Riders, Blues Explosion, Mitch Granger, Sydney Blues & Roots Festival, Anne Palumbo, The Urban Excentrics, JAG, Christian Marsh, Ross Ward's Xpress, Doggn It Blues, Mark Lucas & The Deadsetters, Jack Derwin, The Rockhoppers, The Bellhops, Chich & The Messengers and many more in 2015. **Join our 5,500+ Facebook Likes** or follow our studio guest announcements at https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm

Disability Support Pension and overseas travel

A new brochure clarifies rights and entitlements for people travelling longer than 28 days.
This new brochure explains what people need to do if they are travelling overseas for long periods or have a family crisis overseas.
Disability Support Pension and overseas travel can be ordered online or viewed as a webpage.

Google Impact Challenge – Disabilities

Google.org is looking for your biggest and best ideas for how technology can expand opportunity and independence for people with disabilities. We're **committing USD 20 million in grant funding** toward this goal, some of which may be awarded to organizations identified through this call for ideas.

Exciting ideas are already becoming a reality. For instance, 3D-printed prosthetic limbs, eye-controlled communication software, and remote hearing diagnostics are part of a wave of current innovations that have the potential to change the trajectory of solutions available to people with disabilities.

We hope that the Google Impact Challenge will propel even more technological innovation that will create meaningful and positive change for people with disabilities.

What we are looking for:-

1. Big Ideas
2. Technology at the Core
3. Potential for Scale
4. Team

Organisation Eligibility

Nonprofits and public charities from any country are eligible to submit an idea.
Your organization must hold valid and current charity status as determined by the legislation
of your country of incorporation. During the review process, you may be asked to provide documentation confirming your charitable status, and other materials such as financial statements, to Google and/or its agents.

The following entities are not eligible to submit ideas: governmental entities and organizations, including, but not limited to, public schools and universities, for-profit organizations
and individuals.

Language

All ideas must be submitted in English.

Timeline

Ideas will be evaluated on a rolling basis, so we encourage you to submit whenever you are ready. We will accept ideas until **September 30, 2015 at 2:00 pm, Pacific Daylight Time.**

More information online at http://get.google.com/disabilitiesimpactchallenge/index.html

The Australian Longitudinal Study of Adults with Autism Spectrum conditions

Researchers at the UNSW and the Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) are seeking volunteer research participants to learn about life in adulthood for people with autism/Asperger's syndrome.

We are inviting you to participate if you:
- Have a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and are 25 years or older
- Are a carer or family member of an adult with autism spectrum condition

What does it involve?

If you decide to take part, you would:
- Complete a questionnaire either online or via a paper copy
- The questions will be about many aspects of life including mental and physical health, employment and other day occupations, behaviour, emotions, coping, memory, friendships and health service utilisation.
- Time taken to complete the questionnaires may vary greatly, but the majority may take between 2 to 3 hours. You don't have to do it all at once.
- Complete a second questionnaire about two years later if you want to.

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the study please contact:

Kitty Foley and Jane Hwang
autismcrc@unsw.edu.au
(02) 9385 0620

www.autismcrc.com.au/adult-study

www.3dn.unsw.edu.au

Research & Demographic Reports

Characteristics of people using mental health services and prescription medication, 2011

Australian Bureau of Statistics
28 October 2014 | Provides an overview of selected social and economic characteristics of people using subsidised mental health-related services and subsidised prescription medication including the type of services or medication these people are accessing.

Autism Occurrence by MMR Vaccine Status Among US Children With Older Siblings With and Without Autism

Anjali Jain, MD, Jaclyn Marshall, MS, Ami Buikema, MPH, et al.
Despite research showing no link between the **measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism spectrum disorders (ASD),** beliefs that the vaccine causes autism persist, leading to lower vaccination levels. Parents who already have a child with ASD may be especially wary of vaccinations. Objective of the study was to report ASD occurrence by MMR vaccine status in a large sample of US children who have older siblings with and without ASD. (Sample size 95,727 children) **Conclusions:** In this large sample of privately insured children with older siblings, **receipt of the MMR vaccine was not associated with increased risk of ASD**, regardless of whether older siblings had ASD. These findings indicate no harmful association between MMR vaccine receipt and ASD even among children already at higher risk for ASD. *JAMA*. 2015;313(15):1534 doi:10.1001/jama.2015.3077

Housing Assistance Australia 2015

Housing assistance in Australia 2015 covers government funded provision of social housing, rent assistance, home purchase assistance and support services to help households maintain their tenancies.AIHW catalogue number WEB 073. Download online report for free (http://www.aihw.gov.au). View the media release and download the web pages for free online.

[Maternal Mild Thyroid Hormone Insufficiency in Early Pregnancy and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Symptoms in Children](#)

Thiago Modesto, MSc[1,2]; Henning Tiemeier, MD, PhD[1,3,4]; Robin P. Peeters, MD, PhD[5,6]; Vincent W. V. Jaddoe, MD, PhD[2,4,7]; Albert Hofman, MD, PhD[4]; Frank C. Verhulst, MD, PhD[1]; Akhgar Ghassabian, MD, PhD[1,2.] Maternal thyroid hormone insufficiency during pregnancy can affect children's cognitive development. Nevertheless, the behavioral outcomes of children exposed prenatally to mild thyroid hormone insufficiency are understudied. Objective was to examine whether exposure to maternal mild thyroid hormone insufficiency in early pregnancy was related to symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children at 8 years of age. Conclusion. Children exposed to maternal hypothyroxinemia in early pregnancy had more ADHD symptoms, independent of confounders. This finding suggests that intrauterine exposure to insufficient thyroid hormone levels influences neurodevelopment in offspring. *JAMA Pediatr*. Published online July 06, 2015. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2015.0498. See full abstract and article online at

[http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleID=2344550&utm_source=Silverchair%20Information%20Systems&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JAMAPediatrics%3AOnlineFirst07%2F06%2F2015](#) (subscription required)

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2013-14

Around 119,000 clients were estimated to have received over 180,700 treatment episodes from 795 publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment agencies in 2013-14. Alcohol was the most common drug leading clients aged 30 and over to seek treatment, while cannabis was most common for clients aged 10-29. Over the 5 years from 2009-10, there has been an increase in the proportion of episodes where amphetamines were the principal drug on concern (from 7% to 17%) and an increase in smoking/inhaling as the method of administration for amphetamines. A majority of treatment episodes had a duration of three months or less, and counselling remains the most common treatment type. AIHW catalogue number HSE 158. [http://www.aihw.gov.au](#) View and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Long-Acting Injectable Risperidone for Relapse Prevention and Control of Breakthrough Symptoms After a Recent First Episode of Schizophrenia : A Randomized Clinical Trial

Kenneth L. Subotnik, PhD[1]; Laurie R. Casaus, MD[1]; Joseph Ventura, PhD[1]; John S. Luo, MD[1]; Gerhard S. Hellemann, PhD[1]; Denise Gretchen-Doorly, PhD[1]; Stephen Marder, MD[1,2]; Keith H. Nuechterlein, PhD[1,3.] Long-acting, injectable, second-generation antipsychotic medication has tremendous potential to bring clinical stability to persons with schizophrenia. However, long-acting medications are rarely used following a first episode of schizophrenia. The objective of the study were to compare the clinical efficacy of the long-acting injectable formulation of risperidone with the oral formulation in the early course of schizophrenia. Conclusion and relevance - The use of long-acting injectable risperidone after a first episode of schizophrenia has notable advantages for clinical outcomes. The key clinical advantages are apparently owing to the more consistent administration of the long-acting injectable. Such formulations should be offered earlier in the course of illness. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online June 24, 2015. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2015.0270. See the full abstract and article at

[http://archpsyc.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleID=2323629&utm_source=Silverchair%20Information%20Systems&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JAMAPsychiatry%3AOnlineFirst06%2F24%2F2015](#)

[Housing priorities of people with dementia: security, continuity and support](#)

Michelle Gabriel, Debbie Faulkner, Christine Stirling | Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. This research project provides policy-makers and housing practitioners with new knowledge about the future housing and support needs of people with dementia. It outlines strategies to support people with dementia, extend their capacity to age-in-place, and improve service coordination in this area. Australian Policy Online news item.

Suicide and hospitalised self-harm in Australia: trends and analysis

This report describes suicide and hospitalised self-harm in Australia. Suicide occurring in 2010-11 is described statistically, and trends are shown for the period from the early 1920s. Patterns of suicide over time were also examined for selected birth cohorts. Hospitalised intentional self-harm in 2010-11 is also described, and trends are examined for the period from 1999-00. Both suicide and hospitalised intentional self-harm are analysed by mechanism of injury, sex, age group, Indigenous status and other factors. AIHW catalogue number (INJCAT 169). View the [media release](#) and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Epilepsy Essentials Online Training only $40

Epilepsy Action Australia's Online training allows staff to gain a comprehensive understanding of epilepsy, and the ability to recognise and respond to seizures - all from their computer!

The **Epilepsy Essentials** Online Course is interactive, flexible and informative. The course takes one hour and includes information about epilepsy and seizures, including descriptions of the common types of seizure activity, seizure first aid and management strategies. Topics addressed in training include:

- Facts about epilepsy
- Types of seizures
- Living with epilepsy
- Seizure safety and first aid

Enroll now, or contact us for more details:
T: 1300 37 45 37
E: education@epilepsy.org.au
W: http://www.epilepsy.org.au/online-academy/

22 - 23 October 2015

I-CAN v5 Facilitator Training

(I-CAN = Instrument for the Classification and Assessment of Support Needs)**.**
Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW.
The I-CAN comprehensively assesses, describes and monitors an individual's support needs. Records are accurate regardless of staff turnover and improve quality outcomes. The I-CAN unites person-centred and strengths-based principles, by allowing the individual to direct their own assessment, in collaboration with their circle of support. This gives voice to their support needs, as opposed to assessments directed by professionals.
http://cds.med.usyd.edu.au/i-can-v5-facilitator-training

ONLINE EDUCATION DIRECTORY

Online professional development is an easy way to access further education – especially valuable for shift workers – so we have researched some options and put them on our web site at
http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/online_education.html

NSW FACS: ADHC SPECIALIST BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT – Multi-Modal Learning

  The Practice Improvement Framework (PIF) website is Live! http://pif.learnflex.com.au
The Practice Improvement Framework (PIF) is one of the long term systemic solutions developed by Clinical Innovation and Governance to improve work practice in specialist behaviour support within the government and non-government disability sector.

Click here to view the PIF Factsheets.
To become a participant and complete the e-Learning you can register at http://pif.learnflex.com.au.

Residential Care Workers - Disability & /or Mental Health Care (Agency Casual Work)
Email: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com   Free phone: 1800 009 292
We are a leading casual staff agency offering a variety of shifts to care workers throughout the greater Sydney region, Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains. Currently we are seeking experienced care workers to work with people who have a disability. Plenty of shifts available. Weekly pay. Choose your own days & shift availability. Must have previous experience in a similar role. Police Check Certificate & Working With Children Clearance Certificate, Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. Ability to communicate effectively with people who have a disability is essential. Must be able to work as part of a team. For more information call 1800 009 292 or forward your resume along with contact details of two referees to: *Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com*

Registered Nurses & Endorsed Enrolled Nurses specialised in disability, mental health and general (casual agency work)

Email: *Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com* **Free phone: 1800 009 292**

One of the market leaders in the public, private mental health, disability, and general health fields. Global can offer you plenty of shifts in private and public hospitals, disability, mental health services, dual diagnosis and disability special care areas. An agency founded and run by Registered Nurses, we can assist you in finding work in a variety of locations. Choose the hours and shifts to suit your lifestyle. Must be registered to practice in Australia. Police Check Certificate & Working With Children Clearance Certificate, Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. **Excellent pay rates. Weekly pays.** Why not forward your resume to *Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com* or phone to speak to one of our friendly consultants who can help you make that great career move. Free phone: 1800 009 292.

See Current Positions Vacant at http://www.globalcarestaff.com/plugins/job.cgi

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Conference Calendar

See a more comprehensive listing of conferences at our web site
http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/conference_calendar.html

31 August – 4 September 2015
11th Biannual International Conference: ACSA & IAHSA Perth Convention Centre, WA. Aged & Community Services Australia & International Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.
http://www.globalageingconf2015.com/

1 – 2 September 2015
MNHHS Aged Care Conference. Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Queensland.
bridgingthegap@health.qld.gov.au

1 - 3 September 2015
Understanding Accreditation Workshop. LASA Q, Australian Aged Care Quality. Jindalee, Queensland.
http://www.cvent.com/events/lasa-q-understanding-accreditation-3-day-workshop/event-summary-1078f60015b640dda814db67ee24be92.aspx

1 - 4 September 2015
13th Australian Palliative Care Conference. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.
https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/13apcc2015/

1 - 7 September 2015
Spina Bifida Week

1 - 30 September 2015
Dementia Awareness Month.

6 - 10 September 2015
31st International Epilepsy Congress. Istanbul, Turkey. http://www.epilepsymontreal2013.org/future-congresses/31st-international-epilepsy-congress-istanbul-september-2015.973.html

7 - 8 September 2015
National Dementia Research & Knowledge Translation Forum 2015. Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney.
http://www.dementiaresearch.org.au/forum2015

8 - 9 September 2015
Towards A Better Life: An Intro to Social Role Valorization Theory & Possibilities. Burwood, NSW. Foundations Forum. http://www.foundationsforum.info/current-workshops.html

8 - 11 September 2015
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney, NSW.
http://www.crisisprevention.com/Training-and-Events/Nonviolent-Crisis-Intervention-Training-Prog-186?country=Australia

9 - 11 September 2015
Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC15). Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Queensland.
www.apac15.org.au

14- 15 September 2015
Being Home Conference. Doltone House, Pyrmont, Sydney. Community Options Australia.
https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=127195&

15 September 2015
Brain Injury NSW Service Provider Workshop: Overview & Providing Support. Bankstown, NSW. Call 02 9868 5261

15 - 16 September 2015
26th PANDDA 2015 Conference,
Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia.
Novotel Hotel, Parramatta, NSW.
www.pandda.net

15 – 17 September 2015
Introduction to Social Role Valorization. Harrisburg PA, USA. Contact: Betsy Neuville

17 September 2015
Aged & Community Services NSW & ACT Frontline Forum. Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney.
http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/event/frontline-forum/

17 - 20 September 2015
6th Annual Integrative Medicine for Mental Health Conference. San Diego, CA, USA. http://www.immh2015.com

18 - 22 September 2015
22nd International Association for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. http://www.iacapap2016.org/

20 - 22 September 2015
Australasia-Pacific Post-Polio Conference. Sydney, Four Seasons Hotel. http://www.poliohealth.org.au/conference-sydney-2016/

21- 25 September 2015
P.A.R.T. Train The Trainer. Western Australia. Predict, Assess and Respond To Aggression/Behaviours of Concern Course. MTU Training Concepts. http://www.mtu.net.au/

21 - 27 September 2015
International Week of the Deaf.

23 – 25 September 2015
Australian Meals On Wheels Association National Conference. Adelaide Convention Centre.
http://www.mealsonwheels.org.au/National-Events.aspx

25 September 2015
Disability, Ageing and Lifestyle Expo. Adelaide Showgrounds Wayville SA**.**
http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pvbjbmuab&oeidk=a07eb73eop90be2ea5d

28 - 30 September 2015
15th Australian Social Policy Conference. Sydney, NSW. Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. http://www.aspc.unsw.edu.au/

29 - 30 September 2015
Linking Housing & Homelessness Services. Sydney.
http://www.criterionconferences.com/event/reducinghomelessness14/

29 September – 12 October 2015
Cruising for Change: Centre For Disability Studies Learning Journey 2015. Diamond Princes New Zealand Cruise Departs Sydney. Centre For Disability Studies. Inquiries Sam Arnold sam.arnold@sydney.edu.au

1 - 31 October 2015
Mental Health Month - NSW - Mental Health Association NSW

1 - 31 October 2015
National Polio Awareness Month.

1 - 5 October 2015
4th Asia Pacific Rim International Counselling and Psychotherapy Conference. Perth, Western Australia.
http://www.apricpc.com

3 - 7 October 2015
22nd Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities. Sri Lanka. www.Afid22.com

4 - 7 October 2015
6th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality. Los Angeles, CA, USA.
http://www.6thinternationalconference.org/

7 - 9 October 2015
ACMHN's 41st International Mental Health Nursing Conference. Brisbane, Qld. www.acmhn2015.com

7 - 9 October 2015
ACAA Conference: Universal Design. Olympic Room, MCG, Melbourne.
http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/event/acaa-conference-2015-universal-design-better-
way/?instance_id=1082

10 October 2015
Diabetes Update Day. Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh, Sydney. Diabetes NSW. 8.30am – 4pm

11 - 14 October 2015
LASA National Conference. Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Vic. Leading Aged Services Australia.
http://www.lasacongress.asn.au/

12 - 18 October 2015
National Carers Week.

13 – 16 October 2015
International Psychogeriatric Association Congress. Berlin, Germany. http://www.ipa-online.org/wordpress/

13 – 16 October 2015
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. Vibe Hotel Savoy, Melbourne, Vic.
http://www.crisisprevention.com/Training-and-Events/Nonviolent-Crisis-Intervention-Training-Prog-
188?country=Australia

14 - 15 October 2015
NDS Regional Support Worker Conference: NSW New England Region. National Disability Services.
http://www.nds.org.au/projects/article/159

15 – 16 October 2015
Respite and Community Care National Conference. Rydges World Square, Pitt Street, Sydney.
http://nationalrespiteaustralia.com.au/national-conference/national-conference-2015/

15 - 17 October 2015
8th IberoAmerican Congress on Alzheimer's Disease. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
www.aibbrasil2015.com.br/ingles/index.php

19 - 23 October 2015
PASSING Social Role Valorisation Course. Brisbane QLD. Contact: Values in Action

19 - 25 October 2015
National Week of Deaf People.

20 - 21 October 2015
Transitioning to an Integrated Health Service. Sydney.
http://www.criterionconferences.com/event/transitioninghealth/

21 October 2015
Brain Injury NSW Service Provider Workshop: Overview & Providing Support. Wagga Wagga, NSW. Call 02 9868 5261

21 - 22 October 2015
Designing & Delivering Mental Health Services within the NDIS. Sydney.
http://www.criterionconferences.com/event/mentalhealthinndis/

22 - 23 October 2015
I-CAN v5 Facilitator Training (Instrument for the Classification and Assessment of Support Needs)**.** Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW. http://cds.med.usyd.edu.au/i-can-v5-facilitator-training

22 - 24 October 2015
9th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry. Copenhagen, Denmark.
http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/Copenhagen2015/index.html

26 – 28 October 2015
7th Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium. Creswick, Vic. www.anzmh.asn.au/rrmh/

27 – 29 October 2015
Dementia Strategy Summit. Pullman Quay Grand, Sydney Harbour. Akolade w Alzheimer's Australia NSW.
https://akolade.com.au/events/dementia-strategy-summit/

27 – 29 October 2015
NDIS New World Expo, Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre**,** Qld. http://www.ndis.gov.au/NDIS-new-world-conference-2015

27 – 30 October 2015
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. The Greek Club, South Brisbane, Qld..
http://www.crisisprevention.com/Training-and-Events/Nonviolent-Crisis-Intervention-Training-Prog-190?country=Australia

28 October 2015
What's The Law: Law for Community Workers. Sydney, NSW. 9.30 am-12.30 pm. Training Centre Level 12 Legal Aid NSW 323 Castlereagh Street, Haymarket. Legal Aid NSW. http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/workshops/law-for-community-workers/law-for-community-workers-sydney

28 - 30 October 2015
National Housing Conference. Perth Convention Centre, Western Australia. http://www.nhc.edu.au/

29 October 2015
Active Ageing Conference. Amora Hotel, Sydney. http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2015/07/17/new-event-focuses-on-the-active-ageing-model/

29 – 31 October 2015
Australian Association for Infant Mental Health National Conference. Sydney. University of NSW.
http://www.aaimhiconference.org/

30 October 2015
Perinatal Mental health: An Introduction. Self paced. University of Sydney. http://cce.sydney.edu.au/course/PMHC

4 - 6 November 2015
AAG 48th National Conference. Alice Springs Convention Centre. Australian Association of Gerontology.
http://www.aag.asn.au/national-conference/2015-conference

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