

health matters



Geelong Cats Australian Rules player Gary Ablett does the “thumbs up” with Caleb Robinson during a visit by the AFL club’s players to the children’s ward at the Gold Coast Hospital. The children enjoyed the visit, which included giveaway club memorabilia, autograph signings and some lively conversations.

Colourful vision for Health Matters

Cheaper to produce and better – that’s the vision for the new-look *Health Matters*.

Last year’s Health Matters survey told us that we were on the right track with quality stories about the activities and achievements of our 65,000 staff.

While our readers were generally happy with our previous format – our aim is to make it even better. We want Health Matters to be more interesting, appealing and accessible to readers and more attractive to advertisers – in other words a publication which says “pick-me-up, read-me and take me home”.

Although full colour, the new-look format is the result of reviewing print costs, new printing technologies, cheaper paper stock and a more economical size format which has resulted in a similar production cost per edition as the previous two colour format. Additional advertising will enable Health Matters to be cost neutral in the future.

With this new more attractive, eye-catching format Health Matters will be more widely distributed so that more staff, patients, visitors to our hospitals and community groups will have access to the paper. In future editions we want to include more photographs and stories from our staff, our readers and other health associated organisations. *Peter Lewis-Hughes, State Manager, Pathology and Scientific Services Branch, inspecting a trial print of the new-look Health Matters.*



directions *Dr Steve Buckland, A/Director-General*

With the appointment of Mr Gordon Nuttall MP as the Minister for Health, we have a Minister who is passionate about health at both a personal and system level.

His positive approach to the portfolio will not only strongly assist Queensland Health in meeting the known and emerging challenges facing us, it will also challenge some of our traditional business practices.

We have extra funding to help us attack waiting lists and to improve services in vital areas such as cardiac and cancer prevention and treatment. On top of this we have a public health system which is in good shape thanks largely to the discipline and hard work of former Minister Wendy Edmond and former Director-General Dr Rob Stable.

The challenge for us now will not only be to keep Queensland Health at the front end of public health services, but also to take it to the next level. If we are to do this, we will need to work a little smarter and a little harder in some areas.

Jack Welch, the Chairman and CEO of General Electric said “When the rate of change outside exceeds the rate of change inside, the end is in sight.”

I will actively encourage more innovation and creativ-

ity. We have a huge and largely untapped resource in our staff. There are many people in the system with great ideas on how to improve the services we provide.

I have seen some of these ideas in action in my travels around the districts. We need to get better at harnessing ideas so we can reap the benefits right across the state. I need you to bring yourself to work, especially your ideas of how we might improve the system to promote a healthier Queensland.

We also need to improve the way we communicate with each other, with our communities and with our patients. Communication influences everything we do – our performance, professionalism and the perceptions of our patients and the public.

I believe, as does the Minister, that while there are problems, there is no crisis in the public health system in Queensland. However, there is a crisis in public confidence.

Unfortunately, too often public perception is swayed by ‘bad press’ on isolated instances rather than the many great things we do every day.

I want to improve our practices internally and exter-

nally to put the focus firmly on increasing public confidence in the health system. We need to do this through connecting with our staff and our communities.

The new *Health Matters* is part of that plan. The publication has been reinvented to make it more appealing to readers and advertisers. It will address issues of concern to our staff and community and expand circulation.

The good news is that the new version will cost no more than the old one and we hope eventually to make it pay for itself.

So the example is there. If we can improve communication and produce a better product with the same resources then we are well on the way to meeting the challenges of the future.

Remember that people do want to be treated equally, they want to be treated individually.



Health Matters is published by the Media and Communication Unit of Queensland Health.
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Get a kick and be a kid for the day



Learning the right moves – left to right – Sheree Wellington and Bevan Egan from Logan PCYC, QCAN trainer Nathan Morgan, Queensland Health Project Officer Ruth Miller, Natalie MacPhee from Springwood Rd OSHC and Sue Pager, Queensland Health.

Design and layout

Production Services, Media and Communication Unit
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ISSN 1326-575X

Print and electronic media are welcome to use stories with or without acknowledgment.

Timeframes

Lodge articles for June with the editor before 7 May. If you have an item you consider newsworthy or require further information on articles in this edition, phone (07) 3234 1090.

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Fifteen adults became kids for a day and kicked up their heels at the Logan City Police Citizens Youth Club to pilot a training course before letting it loose on kids.

It was all part of Golden Casket 'Rainbow Kids' and Queensland Health sponsored initiatives to ensure children who attend outside school hours care (OSHC) get involved in physical activity and adopt healthy eating habits.

Sue Pager and Julie Appleton from Queen Elizabeth II Hospital District Community Health Services have spent the past 18 months coordinating the Physical activity and Nutrition in Outside School Hours Care (PANOSH) project.

This involved a recent training session for OSHC service providers on Brisbane's southside who were taught how to kick, weave, throw, catch and generally have fun out of doors.

"Eighteen months ago, with the aid of Golden Casket funding, we undertook a statewide needs assessment of what resources OSHC services around the State needed in the area of activity and nutrition to help them prepare for national accreditation of all services," Sue said.

Sue said that for staff to motivate children, they first had to know why physical activity was so important and how to play the games.

She said Games Outside School Hours activities would

be trialed at 25 southside OSHC programs, in partnership with the Brisbane Southside Public Health Unit and Queensland Children's Activity Network, the joint coordinators of the training.

Training included giving advice on how to modify games to make them more challenging, catering for very large numbers and adapting games for indoor play during bad weather.

Trained staff will go back to their centres and introduce the games, fine tuning them, and track the outcomes achieved in each of the services.

Sue said running activity programs and a focus on healthy food in outside school hours care were important in the fight against obesity in school-aged children.

"The GOSH program offers an alternative to sports and has an emphasis on fun and participation of everyone, not just those who are good at formal sports, and leads to skill development and enhanced self esteem for children," she said.

"In the second half of this year, we plan to train providers across the State so that both the food and nutrition and physical activity resources can be introduced to all OSHC services."

Strait health service boost

Women living in the Torres Strait now have regular access to a female general practitioner and better access to information about women's health issues.

Women's health clinics are being conducted by the Royal Flying Doctor Service's Rural and Remote Women's Health Program. Program Manager, Wendy Lehfeldt, said clinics will be conducted at most of the larger communities around the Torres.

The program is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments and overseen by the RFDS, with Queensland Health Women's Cancer Screening Services, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the Queensland Divisions of General Practitioners.

Wendy said the program offered women the opportunity to see a female general practitioner and provide primary and secondary prevention services.

Cardwell's health centre open

Health services in Cardwell have been improved with the opening of the new \$750,000 Dr R F Warnock Community Health Centre.

Acting District Manager of the Innisfail Health Service District, Kain Donily, said the centre's services includes outreach children's and women's health, community

health, mental health and Indigenous health. The centre will employ a full-time clinical nurse and part-time health worker, a cleaner and administration staff. An outreach dental service will be provided with a dentist visiting from Tully or Innisfail hospitals on a regular basis.

Unique partnership boosts Balonne



Dr Coltzau (left) and Dr Bardsley.
Photograph: Balonne Beacon.

The appointment of Senior Medical Officer Dr Adam Coltzau to the Goondir Health Clinic has boosted health care services in Balonne Shire. The Goondir position was vacant for 13 months before Dr Coltzau's appointment.

A partnership between the Goondir clinic and Queensland Health will see Dr Coltzau working closely with St George Hospital's Medical Superintendent Dr Cameron Bardsley.

Dr Bardsley now has a right-hand man for the very first time in seven years and together the two doctors will alternate their services between the Goondir clinic and St George Hospital. Both doctors are public employees, but Dr Coltzau's position is partly funded by the Goondir clinic. Originally from New South Wales, Dr Coltzau studied medicine at the University of Queensland and was most recently employed at Ipswich Hospital. He relieved Dr Bardsley at St George Hospital for six months in 2002.

The clinic provides primary health care and medical services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of St George and surrounding areas. It is the first

time that Queensland Health has contracted services to a private practice.

The Goondir position had been vacant since the previous doctor left in December 2002. This added considerably to Dr Bardsley's workload and also meant that access to services was reduced at times. Dr Bardsley said local general practitioners had been very supportive during this period, assisting with on-call and emergency situations.

"It's exciting to have a community-based practice working so closely with Queensland Health," he said.

Dr Bardsley said the arrangement could become a model for healthcare in other regional and remote areas. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine is being approached to accredit the position as a training position for their fellowship. Roma Health Service District Manager Brenda Campbell said the partnership was good news for the local community.

"I am particularly pleased to have such a strong partnership with Goondir as it will help our services to better meet the needs of the local Indigenous community," she said.

Alcohol and drug problems

Are you ready to learn more?

Alcohol and drug misuse is a significant issue in today's nursing clinical practice. Would you like to learn more about this challenging area while gaining graduate qualifications from a highly respected university?

Courses in **addiction studies** are being offered by The Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC) at The University of Queensland.

All courses are offered in distance education mode and students can study towards a graduate certificate, graduate diploma or master's degree. Students enrolling in postgraduate coursework at UQ may also be eligible for interest-free, deferred payment loans through PELS (the Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme) and tax concessions.

To find out more about addiction studies and QADREC, phone (07) 3365 5189, email qadrec@sph.uq.edu.au or visit www.sph.edu.au/ghsp/



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Allied health scholarships available

A \$50,000 annual allied health research scholarship scheme is being introduced by Queensland Health's Health Advisory Unit – Allied Health.

Ruth Cox, Acting Principal Allied Health Adviser said \$50,000 will be available each year for scholarships.

The scholarships will be for rural and remote projects – \$15,000 (one recipient); novice researchers – \$10,000 (one recipient); and other allied health research – \$25,000 (maximum \$15,000 to any one application). Applications for this year's round must be submitted by Friday 30 April. Late applications will not be accepted. Successful applicants will be notified by 30 June.

Ruth said the introduction of research scholarships was in line with the Smart State: Health 2020 direction statement. She said the aim was to:

- add to evidence which improves the value of Queensland Health allied health services
- add to the research expertise of allied health personnel in Queensland Health
- contribute to multi-disciplinary partnerships in researching interventions and tools for practice
- help balance equitable distribution of research opportunity throughout the State
- enhance dissemination of research findings, consistent with recommendations in the 2002-2007 Research and Development Strategic Plan.

Information about the scholarships, guidelines and application kit are available on <http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/odb/hau/allied/home.htm> under the Taskforce tab.

Contact: Madeline Avci, phone 323 41612.

Disabilities access plan introduced

People with disabilities will have improved access to Queensland Health facilities and services with the introduction of the Queensland Health Disabilities Action Plan. The plan will help meet the obligations set for all departments under the Queensland Government Strategic Framework for Disability 2000-2005.

The framework provides direction for departments and non-government organisations to fulfil responsibilities to improve policies, programs and services for people with disabilities, their carers and their families. A reference group has been established and is working on implementing the plan across Queensland Health.

The group will look at how best to implement strategies

in business units and work practices to ensure services are inclusive of people with disabilities.

Principal Project Officer Ruth Reinhard said the plan ensured the needs of people with disabilities were taken into account in service development.

"It also ensures that they are involved actively in service, program and policy development processes," she said.

"Everyone working for Queensland Health must be aware of these needs and reflect that awareness in their work practices.

"The plan is also about improving physical access to our buildings and providing facilities for people with disabilities."

29 clinicians honoured

A total of 29 applicants have been awarded the title of Advanced Clinician in the 2003 round of the Queensland Health Allied Health Conditional Clinical Advancement Scheme.

They are: Carolyn Astill, Carey Bayliss, Sonja Brennan, Andrew Coates, Vanessa Cobham, Dianne Collis, Alexandra Dilworth, Shareen Forsingdal, Patricia Fronek, Frances Golding, Elisabeth Hamer-nik, Diane Keating, Suzanne Kuys, Melissa Lawrie, Amanda Lee, Rachael Macdonald, Helen Morris, John Murray, Kiley Pershouse, Sally Plever, Barbara Radcliffe, Margaret Rose, Megan Simons, Maura Solley, Paula Upham, Kelly Weir, Melinda White, Judith Wilcox, Christine Wilson.

The scheme was introduced in 2002 to assist in the recruitment and retention of a skilled allied health workforce. Ruth Cox, Acting /Principal Allied Health Adviser

said provision of a clinical career pathway for allied health employees was a key recommendation of the Director-General's Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Taskforce.

"The scheme recognises and rewards the outstanding clinical achievement and performance of eligible allied health employees within Queensland Health," she said. Achievement of Conditional Clinical Advancement is assessed on:

- the contribution the individual has made to the clinical practice, clinical education or clinical research needs of the organisation (against each assessment criterion)
- the extent to which they have contributed to Queensland Health's vision, mission and priorities.

Planning is under way for the 2004 round and interested staff can find details on http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/odb/hau/allied/html/career_progression.htm

Forum explores heart care

The Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement will present the combined Cardiac and Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation Collaboratives Forum on Friday, 7 May, in the auditorium, Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The free forum, with the theme Quality and Innovation in Cardiac Care, will explore the issues and challenges of providing cardiac care in today's health care environment, along with a view to the future. Speakers will include CHI sponsor Associate Professor Ian Scott (PAH), Asso-

ciate Professor Con Aroney (TPCH), Associate Professor John Atherton (RBWH), Dr Anna Hawkes (National Heart Foundation), Dr Deborah Meyers (TPCH), and Dr John Scott (A/General Manager Health Service).

RSVP by Friday, 16 April, to Kate_Quigley@health.qld.gov.au

Contact: Irene Darwin, CHI Collaborative Manager, phone 3636 1521 or visit the CHI web site at www.health.qld.gov.au/chi

Transplant specialist a 'major coup'



Dr John Dunning with patient, Shane Hegedus.

An internationally renowned heart-lung surgeon, who pioneered the technique used in Australia's first triple organ transplant, has been appointed as lung transplant specialist to the transplant team at The Prince Charles Hospital.

Dr John Dunning was previously at the transplant unit of Papworth Hospital, Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

The move is a major coup for Australian patients who will benefit from his expertise in cardiac and thoracic surgery, particularly heart and lung transplantation, and the use of artificial heart devices (ventricular assist devices, known as VADs).

Dr Dunning is one of a handful of internationally recognised experts performing the procedure 'Pulmonary Endarterectomy' which involves the removal of chronic blood clots from the patient's lung. Until recently, the Pulmonary

Endarterectomy procedure was only available overseas in the United States and Europe.

Dr Dunning has joined the dedicated transplant team at The Prince Charles Hospital, Chermiside. The unit is already internationally recognised for its clinical excellence, and last year performed Australia's first combined heart-lung and liver transplant with surgeons from The Princess Alexandra Hospital. The technique used for the triple transplant recipient Jason Grey, was developed earlier by Dr Dunning and a colleague in the United Kingdom.

Having previously worked with The Prince Charles Hospital's Director of Transplant Dr Keith McNeil in the UK, Dr Dunning said he looked forward to further developing the specialist clinical and research services at The Prince Charles Hospital.

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Training helps aged care workers



Most people want to stay living independently in their own homes as they age or develop disabilities, but the challenges facing them are becoming more and more complex.

Aged care services help people who are finding it difficult to perform everyday tasks and are, as a result, at risk of being admitted to long-term residential care.

A range of services, such as domestic assistance, personal care, day respite, transport and social support, are provided through a number of organisations.

To help aged care workers provide a more effective service to their clients, the Southern Downs Health Service District has introduced aged care traineeships, in partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Education and

Queensland Health care worker Coral Morrison with client Michael Bowers.

CHIME nears end of five-month trial

An assessment will be made at the end of next month on the suitability for use throughout the State of a new community health computer system currently undergoing a five-month trial at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Service District community health services.

Staff in the six community health centres are using the CHIME system (Community Health Information Management Enterprise) to record client details, generate referrals and automatically send them to the appropriate service.

Clinical notes, assessment tools, management plans and service contact details relating to the client can be entered into CHIME, allowing the information to be accessed by authorised staff at other locations throughout the State.

Client confidentiality is managed within the system by the use of secure user profiles which are password protected.

By electronically sharing information between clinical systems such as radiology, pharmacy, pathology, theatre,

Training and the South Queensland Institute of TAFE.

“The first group of trainees have completed half their coursework and the benefits of the training are already evident,” said District Home and Community Care Team Leader, Lyn Maher.

“They are learning how to provide different services, such as respite, and are getting a better understanding of how the aged care system works.

“As a result, the trainees say their confidence and job satisfaction is increasing and this is certainly reflected in the services they provide.

“At the end of the training period, the aged care workers will graduate with a Certificate III in Community Services: Aged Care.”

emergency, patient administration, dental and community health, Queensland Health will be able to deliver the right information to the authorised person at the point of decision. The Brisbane South Diabetes and Respiratory Service have been using CHIME since November last year.

“CHIME is definitely more efficient and easily managed,” said Kathleen Kaggelis, Administration Officer at the Corinda Community Health Centre.

“Client information, especially appointments, is readily accessible. I think it is so much better than the previous application we had. There are so many more features that make life easier. I know exactly where all the clinicians are and which clients they are seeing, when.”

The CHIME trial is one of eight projects which have been brought under the umbrella of the Clinical Informatics Program which was set up to manage all Queensland Health clinical information management/information technology system projects.

New nursing training starts

Students from as far a field as Adelaide, Mackay, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast are taking part in the first year of the Princess Alexandra Hospital-University of Queensland Undergraduate Nursing Course which started last month.

The new approach to nursing tuition was developed in partnership with Queensland Health, Southern Zone, the Faculty of Health Sciences and The University of Queensland,

and is designed to produce high quality graduates.

Staff at the hospital have started problem-based learning tutorials and students will shortly be entering the clinical areas. Students will be in a clinical environment and work alongside nurses and teams of health professionals.

This new program aims to improve outcomes for graduate nurses, improve transition into professional practice, improve recruitment and retention of registered nurses.

Visit by overseas experts

Mental Health of Older People is the theme of the fifth annual International Mental Health Conference to be held at the Gold Coast International Hotel on 9-11 July.

Invited overseas speakers include Professor Lou Schneider, USA; Professor Ian McKeith, Newcastle on Tyne, UK; and

Professor David Neary, Manchester University.

Contact: 5th International Mental Health Conference, c./- AST Management, phone 5577 3397, fax 5538 5876 or e-mail: meetings@gcimh.com.au

Clinicians prepare for new standards

A year-long project to train 2600 clinicians in the use of standardised outcomes measures for mental health patients has been completed by Queensland Health's Mental Health Unit.

The project manager of the Outcomes Training Project, Luke Hatzipetrou, said the four-person team trained staff from more than 170 individual mental health services in all 39 health service districts.

"More than half the training time was outside Brisbane as we concentrated on face-to-face workshops for 95 per cent of the mental health clinical workforce," Luke said.

The team leader of the Systems and Outcomes Team of the MHU, Ruth Catchpoole, said better collection of patient information would take mental health services to higher standards of care.

"A national approach to mental health information has allowed Australia to take a leading international role in mental health reform," Ruth said.

"The Outcome Initiative has shown that Queensland Health can drive change towards integrated patient-focused care and quality use of research and technology.

"Our team will be working this year on integrating information to create a more comprehensive understanding of Queensland's mental health consumers and service provision.

"We want to answer the crucial questions of who receives what services from whom at what cost and with what effect.

"A team of zonal coordinators will be working to support districts in developing strategies to sustain changes required to meet the needs of mental health information development and to embed the use of quality information into clinical practice."

Contact: Fiona Davidson, Project Officer, Systems and Outcomes Team, Mental Health Unit, 323 40759 or e-mail: Fiona_Davidson@health.qld.gov.au

Indigenous career offer

A new cadetship program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will help Queensland Health increase the number of Indigenous people in allied health jobs and improve access to health care services across the State.

The National Indigenous Cadetship Program, an initiative of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, was established by Jenny O'Neil, Indigenous Cadetship Officer - Griffith University, the Princess Alexandra Hospital Mental Health Service and the Indigenous Workforce Team.

The Allied Health Cadetship Program is available to university students and offers 12 weeks full-time work, and a guaranteed, full-time job with Queensland Health upon completion of the degree.

Queensland Health has set the Indigenous recruitment target as 2 per cent across all salary levels by 2010. Princess Alexandra Hospital aims to employ all Indigenous Austra-

lian nursing graduates who apply and take on one Allied Health cadet per year.

The Indigenous Allied Health Cadetship Guidelines will be available shortly on QHEPS and posted to the Indigenous Workforce Team site. Warren Locke, Principle Project Officer Indigenous Workforce Team, said employing more Indigenous Health Workers was the key to establishing and maintaining better linkages with Indigenous communities.

"Indigenous Australians are much more likely to visit a hospital or health care facility that has an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island employee who they can identify with, and who understand their specific health issues," he said.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Mental Health Unit recently employed two cadets, Michelle Combo and Stacey Vervoort, under the program (which is part of Princess Alexandra Hospital's Indigenous Workforce Management Strategy established in 1999).

Food court sets a healthy example



Dietitians Belinda Marshall and Natalie Oberskey checking out items on the menu.

Setting a good example and leading the way when it comes to choosing the healthy alternative is the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Food Court.

As part of the healthy eating campaign "A Better Choice", the hospital's dietitians have assessed meals in the hospital's Level 1 Food Court and have put together a menu which highlights the best meal options.

The 'A Better Choice' campaign, which aims to encourage healthier eating, is a first for hospitals across Queensland.

Food Services Coordinator Don Bambry said the hospital's Food Services staff was proud to be leading the way.

"We are not only ensuring our customers have up-to-date and useful information about what they are eating, we have also made many changes to our products to ensure they are healthier and more nutritious," he said.

In consultation with the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, Food Services has changed the ingredients in several of their recipes.

"We have changed our scrambled eggs recipe, which initially was quite high in fat, so that instead of making it on cream and full fat cheese we now whip it up with low fat milk and low fat cheese," Don said.

Dietitian Natalie Obersky has been working with Eat Well Queensland and Food Services to make these changes and develop resource manuals.

Visitors to the Food Court will be able to look-up any of the products on the "A Better Choice" Menu for the full nutritional information panels, in the resource manuals, located at the Food Court entry and in the staff dining areas.

The "A Better Choice" Campaign was launched last month with cooking demonstrations of items on the menu, including the 'Chicken Burrito' and 'Veggie Burger'.

For more information on the A Better Choice Campaign, or Eat Well Queensland contact Natalie Obersky, Nutrition and Dietetics. Phone 3636 7997.

Dolls promote parenting

Parenting dolls, which simulate the effect of drugs and alcohol on babies, are being used in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula to teach young people and health professionals about the responsibilities of parenthood.

Two sets of dolls have been donated to Queensland Health by Colin MacFarlane from Glencoe Foundation and the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central, Melbourne.

Each set of dolls features a life-like "normal" baby, a baby affected by drugs, and a baby affected by foetal alcohol syndrome. The dolls have a variety of features and can be programmed to simulate a realistic experience of parenting a baby over two days.

Students or clients can care for their 'baby' for

a period of 48 hours and during this time learn the demands and challenges of being a parent.

Occupational therapist and Team Leader of the Child Developmental Unit in Cairns, Patsy Bjerregaard, said the dolls would help health staff educate young people about the responsibilities of parenting.

Research suggests that drinking even small levels of alcohol while pregnant may have damaging effects on the foetus.

"There could also be long-term effects on the normal development of a child when a pregnant mother has taken a combination of drugs during pregnancy, eg. alcohol, cigarettes, cannabis," Patsy said.

New Indigenous health link

Health services for Indigenous people in the West Moreton Health Service District have been improved with the formation of the Ipswich Goorie Community Advisory Group (Indigenous Inter-agency). The group consist of local Indigenous stakeholders from government and non-government agencies.

The Ipswich Goorie Community Advisory Group aims to assist Aboriginal and Torres Trait Islander people by developing community action plans addressing the social, emotional and well-being, cultural, economic and environmental needs of their communities.

The group aims to effectively develop partnerships

with local, State and federal governments, and non-government organisations.

In line with fundamentals of community capacity building it seeks to:

- develop youth intervention and prevention programs
- equip families with the necessary skills to build stronger families and communities
- strengthen the cultural identity of youth/families
- strengthen the relationship between education providers and parents.

Contact: Donervan Chong or David Baker at West Moreton Community Health Plaza on phone, 3817 2444.

Intern program helps ease transition

A total of 55 interns—doctors working in the first year after completing a recognised medical degree—are working at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

They Trainee Internship Program is designed to ease the change from university student to qualified employed doctor.

All interns work with more senior colleagues in a variety of specialities. Duties are varied but all relate to the care of patients—those admitted to hospital and those attending out-patient clinics.

Interns work under supervision as required by the Medical Board of Queensland, and all are required to complete terms mandated by the Medical Practitioners Registration Act 2001.

The hospital provides these doctors with support through ongoing access to education and training during the period of their employment. The hospital has full accreditation for junior doctor training and, through its Medical Education Unit, maintains close links with the Postgraduate Medical Education Foundation of Queensland.

Additional support for interns is offered by senior colleagues who give freely of their valuable time and services as mentors to their junior colleagues.

Other hospitals in which interns from the Princess Alexandra Hospitals work include Queen Elizabeth II, Redland, Mater, Royal Children and Women's Hospitals, Logan, and Greenslopes Private Hospital.

Obituary *Kenneth Charles Wegner*



A large contingent of Queensland Health staff attended the funeral in Brisbane of long-serving former Queensland Health employee, Kenneth (Ken) Charles Wegner.

Ken, born on 20 May 1944 in Biloela, retired in 2000 after 40 years and four months service with Queensland Health.

Marilyn (Harris), Ken's partner of 20 years, and the Wegner family, said they wished to sincerely thank Ken's many friends, including those from Queensland Health, for their truly comforting messages and acts of kindness.

Marilyn said Ken spent 40 years of his life working in Queensland Health in positions that enabled him to have a very large network of colleagues all around the State and at all levels of the organisation.

"Ken would want you all to know the spirit of camaraderie in the workplace was something he valued highly," she said.

Ken began duty as a clerk with the Queensland Institute for the Blind in Annerley on 4 April 1960 and com-

pleted his service with Executive Support Services as a Correspondence Officer on his retirement on 14 August, 2000. The systems established with Ken's input in the early days of Executive Services were such that other departments followed the Queensland Health model.

His extensive knowledge of Queensland Health was a valued asset, not only to his area, but to the many staff members who regularly called on his assistance. He was one of the founding members of the Corporate Office Staff Social Club.

Ken loved hard work, mostly holding down two jobs – one of these jobs was gatekeeper and car parking at Ballymore for more than 30 years.

Ken made many friends in his 40 years of employment in Queensland Health and these friendships were sustained after his retirement.

Since then he held part-time work as a courier and messenger at Brad at Bali On Logan and a dental laboratory in the city where he worked five days a fortnight.

Keperra moves forward with new health centre

Keperra Hospital closed its doors last month after 21 years to make way for a new community health centre. Keperra patients have spent many years either dialysing or visiting the centre for respite care.

Director of Nursing, Angela Bardini said: "We have had patients who have been coming to Keperra for up to 14 years and they are certainly very special to the staff, in fact some have even become like family."

Six respite beds will be transferred to the Prince Charles Hospital. The Prince Charles will offer services, which are not currently accessible from Keperra, such as 24-hour access to rehabilitation and specialist geriatric medicine and x-ray facilities.

Keperra's respite staff have also been relocated, enabling them to continue their nursing careers in their chosen specialty field.

Graduates cover diverse occupations



Some of the program's graduates for 2003 at the post-graduation reception.

A total of 640 students have graduated from the Queensland Health Management Development Program since it commenced in 1998. These graduates are from a wide range of occupations which includes administration, operational, nursing, professional, dental, technical and medical staff.

The program, designed for both existing and future managers, equips staff with the knowledge, skills and abilities to more effectively undertake management roles in Queensland Health. The program also provides staff with a fully accredited post-graduate qualification.

The program is unique to Queensland Health and has been developed in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology. A total of 140 students are currently enrolled and due to complete the program in June and the enrolment process is under way for the 2004 intake which begins on 7 June.

The program delivered via distance and, from 2001, has been delivered solely on-line as an external program via the Queensland Health Intranet and the Internet. A total of 89 graduates were presented with a Graduate Certificate in Health Management (Queensland Health) at the

2003 graduation ceremony held in Brisbane in February.

Queensland Health Acting Director-General, Dr Steve Buckland, and Acting General Manager Health Services, Dr John Scott, presented Queensland Health awards to students receiving prizes for high academic achievement in each subject.

These included:

Organisational Behaviour: Karen Atkinson, The Prince Charles Hospital and Health Service District. **Human Resource Management:** Katherine Munday, Townsville Health Service District. **Financial Management:** Sara Gillam, Logan-Beaudesert Health Service District, and Michiel Pratt, Logan-Beaudesert Health Service District. **Operational Management:** Karen Phillips, Townsville Health Service District. **Overall High Academic Achievement in the Program:** Sara Gillam, Logan-Beaudesert Health Service District.

Contact: Program Coordinator, Kerri Garsden, phone 323 41474 or check the QHEPs web page "Organisational Improvement Unit" under Management Development Program http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/odb/oiu/services/mdp/mdp_enrolment.htm

Three decades in nursing

Beryl Callanan, Assistant Director of Nursing - Division of Medicine, has resigned after 30 years of service to nursing and health care management at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

She has accepted a new appointment as Director of Clinical Services at the Holy Spirit Northside Hospital. Beryl has made a significant contribution to clinical practice, nursing education, and management over the past three decades. Beryl began nursing at the hospital in 1977 and practiced as a registered nurse for three years

before working for four years as a Nurse Educator (RN and EN). She then spent eight years as the Nurse Educator and Course Coordinator for post graduate nurses, before being appointed in 1992 as a Nurse Manager and later Assistant Director of Nursing in the newly-formed Division of Medicine.

In 1996 Beryl was appointed as the Senior Nurse Advisor/Principal Planning Officer, negotiating with staff, builders, engineers, and planners working on the hospital redevelopment project.

Interns undergo rigorous orientation



A total of 27 interns at the Gold Coast Hospital underwent a rigorous orientation week in January which included skill stations, lectures, and a welcome tour of the hospital. The intense program was developed by Medical Education Officer Megan McCormack and includes topics such as medical records and documentation, consent, code of conduct, infection control, fire and workplace health and safety. The interns are posted at the Southport and Robina campuses and will rotate departments every 10 weeks throughout the year.

Verena Doolabh demonstrates her suturing skills

Noelene opts for PA study



Noelene Punch

Arthritis self-help course revives normal lives

By Sonia Wood

Nursing scholarship winner, Noelene Punch, chose Princess Alexandra Hospital from five major Australian hospitals to complete her one-week nursing scholarship.

Noelene, from Western Australia said: "I was eager to observe and get involved in the comprehensive renal care and transplant surgery offered at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, which is much larger than Fremantle Hospital."

This annual grant, offered to one senior and one junior renal nurse, is funded by AMGEN and the Renal Society of Australasia and includes \$5000 for airfares and expenses, \$2000 for training at the host hospital and \$1000 for the winner's hospital.

Noelene Punch has 20 years experience as a renal nurse and is currently a clinical nurse in the Perito-

neal Dialysis Unit at Fremantle Hospital.

She applied for the grant by submitting objectives of what she hoped to achieve, how she would meet these objectives and how this scholarship would benefit Fremantle Hospital.

"I come from a small renal unit with no nephrologist," she said.

"It is great to learn, and be able to share with my colleagues, knowledge of how very experienced renal nurses run the transplant clinic, and help each other while supporting and educating their patients."

During the week Noelene worked with the peritoneal dialysis nurses, the renal outpatient staff and the pre-dialysis educator as well as giving a presentation on renal services in Western Australia to the Department of Nephrology.

Brian Marks is a perfect example of the beneficial effects to be gained from the Arthritis Self-Help Course run by Queensland Health's Toowoomba Community Health Service. Brian said it was a "real shock" when he was diagnosed with arthritis in April last year.

"I knew there was something wrong because my hands were swollen and sore, but there was no-one in the family with it and I just had never thought about it," he said.

After being treated by his general practitioner and a specialist, Brian and his wife Merle, saw an advertisement in the Chronicle about an Arthritis Self Help Course being run by the Toowoomba Community Health Service and the Arthritis Foundation (Toowoomba Branch).

"Merle and I learnt a great deal from the course, everything from ways to alleviate pain to the amount of exercise to do and really learning to live with arthritis," Brian said.

"As a result I have reduced pain and I'm doing more. I play lawn bowls and I'm currently painting our house."

Brian has retired but was a painter at Toowoomba Hospital and his work can be seen throughout the hospital buildings and signs.

"I never thought I would be back at Toowoomba Hospital learning about arthritis," he said.

Toowoomba Community Health Occupational Therapist, Geni Russ, said the course is designed for both the young and elderly and helps revive individuals' sense of hope and control.

"The Arthritis Self Help Course is a combined initiative of Toowoomba Community Health and the Toowoomba branch of the Arthritis Foundation," she said.

"The arthritis course covers areas such as basic self help principles; how arthritis works; exercise and fitness; pain management and relaxation techniques; anger, fear and frustration; depression; nutrition; fatigue; problem solving; communication skills; doctor-patient relationships; understanding and managing medications and assessing unproven treatments.

"The course has been run for the past 12 years and has assisted many local residents in developing positive life strategies and meeting others that live with a similar condition.

"Some of the sessions in each course are run by lay representatives from Arthritis Queensland who share a similar condition and who have completed the course themselves. This provides a more personal approach in the sessions as participants can see the positive results the course offers."

Geni said Toowoomba Community Health offered a "Better Health Self Management" course which would be helpful to anyone with heart disease, stroke, arthritis, asthma or other chronic illnesses.

"The six-week course has practical sessions on exercise, relaxation techniques, problem solving, hints on how to manage everyday activities, stress management, psychological aspects, communication, nutrition, depression, anger and frustration," she said.

"Both courses are open to partners and carers of those with arthritis or a chronic condition. It is not only a positive way to learn how to help yourself, it is also a great opportunity to meet people in your local community who understand what you are going through."

Mobile vans conquer distances



The vast distances between population centres in Queensland represent a challenge when delivering high quality breast cancer screening services.

In response to this challenge, during its 13-year history, the BreastScreen Queensland Program has established a statewide network of screening and assessment services, satellite screening services and relocatable and mobile services.

BreastScreen Queensland State Radiographer, Pam Brackman, said the mobile and relocatable services, which visit more than 180 locations across the State, give women access to the free breast screening service close to home regardless of where they live.

“When women have a breast screen at a relocatable or mobile service we strive to provide them with the same high quality service as that they would be offered at the main centre,” she said.

Mammography machines used on mobile and relocatable services are of the same quality as those at fixed sites, ensuring films of the same high quality regardless of where a woman is screened in the State.

Pam said all services must meet the same National Accreditation Standards for film quality and equipment.

“Regardless of whether a woman is screened at a mobile service, a relocatable facility or fixed screening and assessment site exactly the same standards apply for

equipment, films and radiographers who take the breast screens,” she said

The BreastScreen Queensland Program employs a physicist who ensures that mammography machines used at all BreastScreen Queensland sites meet the standards through annual assessment and regular preventative maintenance.

Pam said that to ensure the highest possible quality, all films were processed at fixed screening and assessment sites where film processing was closely monitored and stabilised. She said any women who required follow-up tests would receive this as part of the BreastScreen Queensland Service.

The biggest risk factor in developing breast cancer is age with more than 75 per cent of breast cancers found in women aged over 50 years.

Women aged 50-69 years are encouraged to have a free breast screen every two years at BreastScreen Queensland, as this is the age group where the benefits of breast cancer screening have been most clearly demonstrated.

Women aged 40-49 years and those more than 70 were also eligible to participate in the program.

To arrange a free breast screen or to find out when a mobile or relocatable service is visiting your area, call 13 20 50 for the cost of a local call.

Breast screen schedule

Queensland Health, through the BreastScreen Queensland Program, provides dedicated and accredited breast cancer screening services through a statewide network of screening and assessment services.

Scheduled services are:

Mobile Services:

Toowoomba: until 2 April, Inglewood; 6-14 April, Texas.

Townsville: until 16 April, Northern Beaches.

Rockhampton: until 2 April, Blackwater.

North Brisbane: until May, Arana Hills; May, Herston; 24-28 May, Brookfield.

Relocatable Services

Cairns: until 18 May, Innisfail.

Gold Coast: until 1 April, Palm Beach; 5-22 April, Helensvale; 27 April-13 May, Paradise Point.

Bundaberg: until 8 April, Childers; 3 April-28 May, Howard.

Nambour: until 26 May, Gympie

Women can arrange a free breast screen by calling 13 20 50, for the cost of a local call, and will be connected to their nearest BreastScreen Queensland Service. Individual and group bookings are also available.

Contact: Women's Cancer Screening Services on 323 41596.

Funds boost for Yeppoon

Yeppoon residents, recovering from illness in Rockhampton Hospital, may be able to go home sooner thanks to additional funding for Rockhampton Health Service District. Rockhampton Health Service District had begun purchasing equipment as part of an additional \$190,000 included in the 2003/04 State budget.

The money will be used to support increased allied

health services including occupational therapy and speech pathology, and continence advisers which will allow patients from areas such as Mt Morgan and Yeppoon to be discharged from Rockhampton Hospital earlier. Funding includes additional furnishings and equipment in the wards and allied health department at Rockhampton Hospital to prepare patients for earlier discharge home.

Courtyard offers quiet meditation

Family members and relatives grieving the loss of a loved one after an accident or emergency situation have a special area to remember and reflect in a new Emergency Department courtyard at Toowoomba Hospital.

The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation donated \$5000 for plants, an outdoor table and chair setting, window screens and lattice to make the area a comfortable and restful place.

The courtyard was officially opened on 4 March (Emergency Nurses Day) by Acting District Manager, Chris Thorburn. Foundation Executive Director Peter Roo-kas said the foundation was always searching for ways to bring the “little extras” to Toowoomba Hospital patients and their families.

“In times of tragedy family members need to support each other and the busy ward area within the Emergency Department is not the best place for quiet reflection,” he said.

“It is fitting that we officially opened the courtyard on Emergency Nurses Day which highlights the many and varied qualities these nurses have, including the support of families following the death of a loved one,” he said.

Emergency Department Acting Nurse Unit Manager Matt Boyd said that as well as officially opening the courtyard the Emergency Department was raising awareness of the work done by emergency nurses.

“Many people may not realise the diverse range of

nursing duties emergency nurses perform, their level of skill and their ability to work collaboratively within a team of health professionals,” he said.

“Our aim is to demystify the emergency department, help increase community understanding of the work of emergency nurses and highlight some of the special skills emergency nurses have.”

Matt said Toowoomba Hospital had 43 emergency nurses with 90 per cent of these staff possessing trauma qualifications and 50 per cent possessing paediatric qualifications through the Emergency Nurses Association of America.

“These qualifications en-sure our nurses are trained in airway management, spinal immobilisation, physical assessment, lifesaving techniques and roadside retrievals.

“Toowoomba and the Darling Downs is well served by its emergency services as all the staff are highly motivated to expand their knowledge and training.

“They are committed health professionals who ensure their skills are up to handling any emergency that comes through the hospital doors.

“These nurses provide a 24-hour service that extends beyond the hospital campus.

“Our nurses are often involved in the transfer of acutely sick patients to Brisbane and in responding to road accidents or to patients in need of transfer from smaller hospitals in the region to Toowoomba.”

Dreamworld aids children



Staff from Dreamworld chose the paediatric ward at Gold Coast Hospital as the recipient of their Christmas fundraising efforts. The \$3700 was used to purchase a paediatric tray of specialised instruments for use in major surgery for children and babies on the Gold Coast. Paediatric surgeon, Dr Deborah Bailey said the donation meant some operations which required Gold Coast families to travel to Brisbane can now be performed on the Gold Coast.

Dreamworld personality Tommy Pickles is pictured handing the cheque to Dr Bailey. Photo: courtesy Dreamworld Donation.

New service to assist care for incontinence

Many people don't want to talk about it, but more than two million people in Australia have incontinence and about \$200 million is spent each year on incontinence pads.

Julie Westaway, Home and Community Care Continence Nurse at Toowoomba Hospital, said this sort of health problem demanded attention for the simple fact that much of the human and financial cost could be prevented.

"Incontinence affects all aspects of a person's life," she said.

Julie said the new Continence Advisory Service in Toowoomba specialises in assessment, education and support for clients, carers and community members who were experiencing bladder weakness. She said this service will complement and enhance the long-established Family Continence Service run by Olive McKinnon.

Julie said that during the February heat wave, media outlets reported that older people were refraining from drinking water during the excessive heat because they were concerned about incontinence.

"We are also dealing with a lot of myths associated with incontinence including incontinence is part of getting older, you should decrease your fluid intake, you don't talk about incontinence, you should go to the toilet 'just in case,'" Julie said.

"A total of 50 per cent of sufferers do not seek assistance in managing the problem of incontinence.

"The Continence Foundation of Australia states that incontinence is a complex and significant health issue deserving professional assessment. Whether the problem

is large or small, it should never be dismissed or trivialised."

Julie said that the service's first priority had been to network with existing service providers in Toowoomba, Northern and Southern Downs.

She said that in conjunction with Clare Cotterell, Continence Nurse Advisor (Home and Community Care and Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme), the service conducted education sessions around the district highlighting referral options, professional support and integrated management.

Julie said many people would not realise there were much wider implications than a diagnosis of incontinence.

"Incontinence can be blamed for a large percentage of falls in the elderly because these clients are rushing to get to a toilet," she said.

"The problem can then snowball because elderly people with incontinence can then start to isolate themselves for fear of not being able to find a public toilet when going out. This can lead to depression and social isolation.

"With our service, clients will need a HACCC referral and then we will conduct a full continence assessment, a 24 hour bladder chart, mobility assessment and make the necessary referrals to occupational therapists, physiotherapists or social workers plus on-going support.

"The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation has supported our new service by offering a scholarship that enables staff to complete a graduate certificate in nursing health continence."

Researcher aims to block obesity



Researcher Louise Hutley ... scholarship winner

Princess Alexandra Hospital researcher, Louise Hutley, has been awarded one of four prestigious Smart State Fellowships.

Each fellowship totals \$300,000 and is funded equally by the Queensland Government, and co-sponsors The University of Queensland and Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Pty. Ltd.

"This money will allow us to employ more scientists to develop our research in a timely manner and will potentially lead to the development of a commercialised product that will benefit all Queenslanders, the Australian economy and the Australian research industry," Louise said.

Louise's study involves the investigation of a growth factor that is linked with the multiplication of fat cells.

This grant will allow her to understand which pathways the growth factor uses to affect the fat tissue and

find out how to block the growth and prevent obesity.

Louise and fellow Princess Alexandra Hospital researcher, Jon Whitehead, also received two of four \$40,000 Diabetes Australia Research Trusts awarded over 12 months to further develop their studies.

Assert your will and defeat stress

A new workplace health and safety awareness campaign will encourage Queensland Health staff to tackle stress before it tackles them.

Principal Employment Relations Officer, Ian Bynon, said the campaign aimed to reduce the impact and amount of stress-related illness in the workplace.

“Most of us experience some form of stress at work, whether it is caused by the work environment itself or by more personal events,” he said.

“In a high-pressure environment like Queensland Health’s – particularly in our hospitals – it can be very easy to ignore stress and hope it will simply ‘go away’.

“However, just like any other injury or illness suffered in the workplace, stress can become something more serious if precautions are not taken.”

Ian said the intent of the campaign was to remind staff of the services available to them to stop stress ‘taking over’.

“Queensland Health is in the business of ‘helping people to better health and well-being’, and that extends to our staff,” he said.

“If you feel that personal or work-related stress is affecting your ability to perform effectively, the first thing to do is talk to someone about it.

“All staff have access to an Employee Assistance Service, which provides free, confidential and professional help for personal or work-related problems.

“The EAS can help with critical incident counselling, coping with organisational change, interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, grief and loss, work-

ing relationships, rehabilitation and many other practical services to help people optimise their potential in the workplace.

“A statewide network of workplace health and safety coordinators can help staff access their local EAS, or they can self-refer or talk to their managers. Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.”

Ian said a reference group has been formed to improve the way Queensland Health addresses stress-related and other workplace health and safety claims and rehabilitation. He said compensation claims for stress-related (psychiatric and psychological) illness and injury costs our organisation around \$1 million and 4000 lost working days a year.

“While we have set a target to reduce the financial impact of claims on our organisation by around 10 per cent, we want to do this pro-actively by preventing stress-related illness from happening in the first place,” Ian said.

“It is a win-win solution; our employees’ well-being will improve, costs will decrease, and ultimately our clients and patients will benefit.”

A training program for human resource managers and workplace health and safety coordinators will be held next month in Brisbane.

Contact: Alison Garrison in the Workplace Health and Safety Project on 323 71456, Alison_Garrison@health.qld.gov.au The corporate office Employee Assistance Service can be contacted on 323 41047. District EASs can be contacted through workplace health and safety coordinators.

infomatters

Real-time imaging eases back pain

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Physiotherapy Outpatient Department is leading the way with rehabilitation for lower back pain patients with a real-time ultrasound machine. Real-time ultrasound imaging has been used for both research and rehabilitation.

One of its main advantages is that movement of anatomical structures such as muscles and tendons can be observed as they actually occur.

This has allowed development of the application of real-time ultrasound imaging as a feedback tool for muscle re-education in rehabilitation.

Physiotherapy Outpatient Senior, Pat Wood, said the real-time ultrasound would enhance physiotherapy reha-

bilitation of patients with lower back pain.

Research into muscle impairment in lower back pain conducted over the past decade has identified a specific impairment in the deep muscles of the trunk, notably the transversus abdominis and the segmental multifidus.

Real-time ultrasound imaging has been successfully incorporated into assessment and facilitation strategies for transversus abdominis and multifidus muscles in the rehabilitation of lower back pain patients.

A two-day course at Princess Alexandra Hospital was given by Dr Julie Hides and was attended by 20 physiotherapists who received lectures, demonstrations and practical sessions on the use of real-time ultrasound imaging.

Dr Julie Hides, a guest presenter, gives a demonstration of the ultrasound imaging equipment.



Baby friendly

Townsville Hospital is the first tertiary hospital in Queensland to become “Baby Friendly”, a three-year accreditation recognised by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF.

Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Australia awarded the accreditation following a comprehensive assessment of the hospital’s practices and compliance with the World Health Organisation’s “Ten Steps”.

The *Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding* is the global standard by which hospitals and maternity facilities are assessed and accredited. About 2000 babies will be born

this year at The Townsville Hospital.

Nursing Director of the Women’s and Children’s Institute at The Townsville Hospital, Cathy Styles, congratulated the staff on their efforts in receiving the accreditation.

“This program protects, promotes and supports breastfeeding at the hospital. Staff have been committed to achieving this kind of environment,” she said.

“BFHI enables mothers to make informed choices about their method of infant feeding, and supports them in their decisions. We also need to stress the health benefits breastfeeding provides for mothers, including a reduced risk of developing breast cancer and ovarian cancer, not to mention the social and psychological rewards.”

what’s on

How does the media impact on mental health?

Richard Eckersley, from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ACT, is one of the two keynote speakers at the Internet, Media and Mental Health International Conference to be held at the Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane, on 21-24 April. His address is titled: “Nailing down the jellyfish: understanding the full impact on mental health and well-being.”

The other keynote speaker, Kate Anthony, from the United Kingdom, will speak on “Avatar therapy: the use of innovative avatar and virtual environment technology for counselling and psychotherapy”.

Contact: Intermedia Convention and Event Management, phone 3858 5576, fax 3858 5510 or e-mail immho4@im.com.au

Abstract deadline for Asia-Pacific talks

Submission of abstracts close on 30 April for the 36th conference of the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health at the Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane, on 1-3 December. Keynote speakers are Professor Richard Southby, Executive Dean and Distinguished Professor of Global Health, George Washington University, USA, and Professor Anuar Zaini, Professor and Senior Consultant in Internal

Medicine Endocrinology and Diabetes, University of Malaya Medical Centre.

Contact: Sonja Firth, phone 3864 3372, e-mail: sonja@apache.org URL: <http://www.apacph.org.conf2004.asp>

Pathology experts for Brisbane

Submission of abstracts close on 23 April for the 25th Congress of the International Academy of Pathology to be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 10-15 October. The congress will bring together international and national experts who will address the latest advances in all aspects of anatomical pathology.

Contact: Stephanie Gurr/Tiah Miller, phone 3858 5586, fax 3858 5516, e-mail: iap04@im.com.au

Informatics – making a difference

The annual Health Informatics Conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 25-27 July. The conference, with the theme Let’s Make a Difference, is being hosted by the Health Informatics Society of Australia. Health informatics deals with the collection, storage, retrieval, communication and optimal use of health-related data, information and knowledge.

Contact: Joan Edgecumbe, e-mail hisa@hisa.org.au or phone (03) 9388 0555.

in retrospect

A review of some articles from previous Health Matters

August	Mackay leads way on cancer program Later-life study of urban women New mental health laws protect victims
September	Sensors helping to ease the pressure for patients Director-General's Excellence Award winners Breastfeeding a boost for establishing a healthy future
October	Paul Taylor wins international scientific award Suicide prevention strategy top priority Three gain annual Churchill Fellowships
November	Ipswich security gains top marks Bali patient's special thanks to staff Queensland Health Strategic plan launched
December	Unwanted cat a real "life saver" University degree boosts nursing careers Queensland Health strategy map launched
March	Belinda's dual medals make history \$11m skills centre well on track Five gain Order of Australia honours

diary

April

1-30	The Great Australian Bite Diabetes Australia – Queensland Phone: 3239 5651
7	World Health Day <i>United Nations Organisation</i> Phone: (02) 9262 5111
11-17	Haemophilia Awareness Week <i>Haemophilia Foundation Australia</i> Phone: 1800 807 173
16	Teen extreme <i>Diabetes Australia – Queensland</i> Phone: 300 136 588
19	National Arthritis Week <i>Arthritis Queensland</i> Phone: 3857 4200
28	International Guide Dog Day Guide Dogs Queensland Phone: 3261 7555

