

Clinical Communique

Issue 9 - 27 October 2016

GP Views - Dr Ramana Kaipu, Molong/Canowindra

Dr Ramana Kaipu has been a General Practitioner at the Molong Medical Practice since January 2015. Prior to that, he worked as a GP at the Western Plains Medical Centre in Dubbo for over five years.

Having completed his training in India, Dr Kaipu undertook further education in the UK before moving to Australia in 2006. He worked in Emergency Medicine for nearly two years, before deciding to become a rural GP.

Dr Kaipu believes working in the country and making a difference in rural communities is a great gift. He feels skin cancer is a major problem facing rural Australians and access to doctors with experience and knowledge in skin cancer in the country is a challenge. Dr Kaipu says working at Molong, Canowindra and Parkes as a specialist GP in skin cancer medicine and surgery, as well as dermatology, is incredibly satisfying as he can help to lift the burden of skin cancer in these regional areas, with early diagnosis and treatment.



New Aboriginal Health Service Program Launches

From 1 November, Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, in conjunction with Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Services Inc., will implement the new Integrated Team Care (ITC) program in the Western NSW PHN region, with their newly created Indigenous Health Support Service (IHSS). Operating as a brokerage service, the IHSS will introduce its service to General Practices (GPs) in Western NSW currently caring for Aboriginal people under the previous programs.

Continuity of care is the number one priority during the transition to the new arrangements and IHSS have been working alongside the current service providers, ensuring

that both patients and GPs alike have been well informed.

A central phone number and direct email contact for IHSS Care Link Workers has been created, so mainstream health providers, AMSs and patients can make direct contact with enquiries about ITC. GPs with an Aboriginal patient eligible for the ITC program will work with the relevant Care Link Worker to continue the management of current patient support services.

The IHSS model enables the GP to provide the clinical care, supported by a care coordinator and the provision of supplementary services. This new model facilitates significantly more funds being spent on direct service provision.

The new model and the key partnerships that underpin the implementation of the IHSS, strengthen the services of the WNSW PHN in its ongoing commitment to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this region.

Contact the IHSS:Email: indigenoushealthsupportservice@maarima.com.au

Phone: 1800 940 757

Fax: 08 8082 9889

[Find out more >>](#)**Resident GP Video Connect - Showcase Film**

The Australian Government Department of Health funded Resident GP Video Connect pilot program is successfully enabling General Practitioners to provide consultations via videoconferencing to residential aged care facilities in Broken Hill. The pilot program has made significant progress since its launch in April 2016, generating positive feedback from all involved.

A demonstration event was held in Broken Hill on 4 October, where a [film](#), showcasing the success of the program, was premiered. The event showcased the program, to key stakeholders and members of the community and highlighted plans for ongoing growth and success.

Click [here](#) to view the [film](#).

For more information on Better Health Care Connections, contact Rekha Pillai (Aged Care Coordinator): 1300 699 167 or Rekha.Pillai@wnswphn.org.au

**Australian Government****Department of Health****Consultation - Redesigning the Practice Incentives Program**

The Australian Government Department of Health are currently undertaking an important consultation process

– *Redesigning the Practice Incentives Program.*

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) is a key driver of quality care in the general practice sector. The redesign of the PIP is an Australian Government initiative to simplify the current PIP and to introduce a new Quality Improvement Incentive. This will give general practices increased flexibility to improve their detection and management of a range of chronic conditions, and to focus on issues specific to their practice population.

The Department of Health is now seeking stakeholder views on how the PIP might foster quality improvement and innovation and offers a number of ways that stakeholders can participate in the consultation. Opportunities include:

1. Indicating your interest in participation through a forum or webcast at the Department of Health on-line consultation hub at consultations.health.gov.au
2. Providing a written submission that comments on specific elements or all elements of the *Consultation Paper – Redesigning the Practice Incentives Program* ([download here](#))
3. Responding to the anonymous questionnaire that will be available at consultations.health.gov.au

We look forward to receiving your valuable input to this important consultation process to ensure your views contribute to the innovative and collaborative redesign of the PIP in the support quality health care.

[Find out more >>](#)**How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime**

Central West Women's Health Centre (CWWHC), provides a unique, holistic women-centred preventative and treatment approach to health and well-being to

empower women and children from all cultures to make informed choices throughout their lives.

As part of their ongoing communication with women in the Central West, the CWWHC has provided the link to the [TED presentation](#) by Nadine Burke Harris on “[How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime](#)”.

Childhood trauma isn't something you just get over as you grow up. Paediatrician Nadine Burke Harris explains that the repeated stress of abuse, neglect and parents struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues has real, tangible effects on the development of the brain. This unfolds across a lifetime, to the point where those who've experienced high levels of trauma are at triple the risk for heart disease and lung cancer. Nadine gives an impassioned plea for paediatric medicine to confront the prevention and treatment of trauma, head-on.

[TED](#) is a not for profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, in communities around the world.

Updated Asthma Handbook

The [National Asthma Council Australia](#) has launched version 1.2 of the *Australian Asthma Handbook*, developed by an interdisciplinary team of medical experts and incorporating feedback from primary care providers. Implementation of treatment plans for asthma will get easier for GPs, with the updated Handbook clarifying facts on the latest medications on the market for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).



The updated *Australian Asthma Handbook* version 1.2, including a full list of amendments, is available at: <https://www.astmahandbook.org.au/>. The corresponding Quick Reference Guide v1.2 is also downloadable as a PDF from the website. Please note that printed copies of this Guide will not be published.

Alongside the Handbook revision, the [National Asthma Council Australia](#) has updated its popular Asthma and COPD Medications wall chart. As well as including all the latest inhalers available in Australia, the updated version specifies each medication's current PBS reimbursement status for asthma and/or COPD.

[Find out more >>](#)

POSITIONS VACANT: WNSW PHN is Recruiting

Western NSW Primary Health Network currently has the following positions available:

General Practice Liaison Officer (GPLO) Dubbo

Fixed term contract until 22 December 2017 – up to 22.5 hours per week

General Practice Liaison Officer (GPLO) Mudgee, Cowra, Parkes or Forbes

Fixed term contract until 22 December 2017 – 1 day per week

For an outline of responsibilities, selection criteria and information on how to apply for these roles, please refer to the [Employment](#) section of the “About Us” page of the [WNSW PHN website](#).

Applications for both positions close on 6 November 2016.

SURVEY: WNSW PHN CPD IN 2017

The Western NSW PHN recognises the importance of access to quality local CPD opportunities for primary health care professionals across our region including GPs, Registrars, Nurses, Pharmacists, Allied Health Professionals, Aboriginal Health Practitioners/Workers, Practice Managers and Practice Staff. As a primary health care provider in our area, your feedback is fundamental in providing direction and focus for next year's CPD events and in ensuring these activities remain responsive to local learning needs.

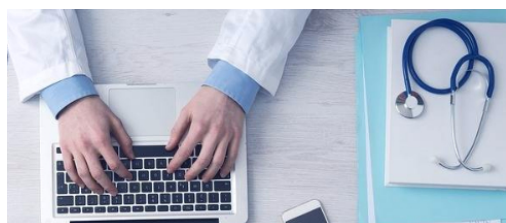


It would be greatly appreciated if you could take 5-10 minutes to complete an [online survey](#). It would also be appreciated if you could assist in distributing the online link to relevant staff and to local health professional communication networks to ensure the feedback we receive is as comprehensive as possible.

The survey will remain open until 9am on 14 November 2016.

This is your chance to provide feedback and direction on local Western NSW PHN CPD opportunities in 2017. Please have your say by simply clicking the [online survey link](#):

The CPD team would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your time and contribution to this important planning process, your time and feedback is greatly appreciated.



Amendment to the Practice Incentives Program eHealth Incentive

The Department of Health has issued a statement about a temporary amendment to the eligibility requirements for the Practice Incentives Program eHealth Incentive (ePIP).

Under the amendment, all ePIP registered practices will be able to make up any shortfall in shared health summary uploads by achieving their full accumulated requirement for the first three quarters by 31 January 2017.

This will provide practices with enough time to resolve their transitional issues and be eligible for their ePIP payment.

Any practices which opted out of the first quarter ePIP payments will also have the opportunity to catch-up and meet their shared health summary targets so that they are able to receive the full incentive.

If your practice is experiencing issues using My Health Record, or would like further information about the changes, contact WNSW PHN's Digital Team:

Leigh Urquhart – 6813 0934

Brooke Winterton – 6813 0913

Practitioner Changes & New Contact Details

Swan Surgery has relocated to 16 Cole Street, Coolah.

This is behind the swimming pool in Coolah and next door to Coolah District Medical Centre.

Phone: 0487 888 980

Fax: 02 6377 1496

Postal Address: PO Box 125, Dunedoo NSW 2844

Appointment bookings from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Training and Events

WNSW PHN organises regular CPD events for doctors and health professionals. These are listed on our website. Upcoming events organised or supported by WNSW PHN include:

- [Medico Masterclass: Cervical Spine Problems](#) - 3 November, Mudgee
- [ACRRM Rural Emergency Skills Training](#) - 5/6 November, Dubbo
- [Youth Health Forum - Video Conference](#) - 9 November, Orange & Dubbo
- [Hepatitis C Masterclass](#) - 17 November, Forbes
- [Managing the Diabetic Foot](#) - 19 November, Dubbo
- [Overactive Bladder \(Diagnosis, Management & Treatment\)](#) - 24 November, Dubbo
- [Optimising Osteoporosis Therapies](#) - 30 November, Dubbo
- [Optimising Osteoporosis Therapies](#) - 1 December, Coonamble

[Full events calendar >>](#)

Contact Western NSW PHN

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Address: First Floor, 187 Brisbane Street, Dubbo NSW 2830

www.wnswphn.org.au

While the Australian Government helped fund this document, it has not reviewed the content and is not responsible for any injury, loss or damage however arising from the use of or reliance on the information provide herein.

We acknowledge that we work on the traditional lands of many Aboriginal clans, tribes and nations. We commit to working in collaboration with our region's Aboriginal communities and peoples to improve their health, emotional and social wellbeing in the spirit of partnership.



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