

## Clinical Communique

Issue 12 - 25 January 2017

### GP Views - Dr Mohammed Abdallah, Kandos Family Medical Practice



Dr Mohammed Abdallah – known as Dr Mo to colleagues and patients – is a General Practitioner at the Kandos Family Medical Practice. Inspired by a tree-change and with the support of WNSW PHN Workforce Manager Nik Todorovski and WNSW PHN Practice Support Officer for Bathurst and surrounds, Fallon Gray, Dr Mo made the move to the Kandos-Rylstone area with his wife and two sons in late 2016.

On completing his medical training in Iraq, Dr Mo spent four years in England continuing his study and working as a GP. In 2011, he moved to Australia to take up an Emergency Registrar position in Sydney, where he was based for several years, before making the move to rural medicine.

Dr Mo believes that mental health, drugs and alcohol, and chronic disease are important areas for focus in his region, that can be addressed through health promotion and applying preventative measures. Working closely with patients and allied health professionals and encouraging a healthy lifestyle and diet are the first steps to improving health outcomes.

Having been warmly welcomed into the Kandos-Rylstone area, Dr Mo believes developing a strong rapport with his patients, the opportunities for continued learning and development, the variety in the work and the community spirit of rural life are what makes being a GP in western NSW so special.

Image L-R: Fallon Gray (WNSW PHN Practice Support), Dr Mo & his son, Nik Todorovski (WNSW PHN Workforce & Education Manager)



**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

### Advice from the DVA on Treating Mental Health Conditions

The Principal Medical Advisor for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has released information that may assist General Practice in managing patients who are current or former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and who may have experienced sexual or physical abuse during their defence service.

The Australian Government has implemented a number of measures to better assist members or ex-members of the ADF who experienced abuse during their defence service. The DVA administers the Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) program which provides for treatment of certain mental health conditions.

[Find out more >>](#)

### POSITIONS VACANT: WNSW PHN are Recruiting

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

#### **General Practice Liaison Coordinator (GPLC) Dubbo**

The General Practice Liaison Coordinator (GPLC) will work with primary health care professionals

and general practices within the WNSW PHN area to ensure care is integrated across the entire patient journey. The GPLC will support the work of the General Practice Liaison Officers throughout the region, and work closely with General Practices, Aboriginal Medical Services and the Western NSW Local Health District.

Fixed term contract until 22 December 2017 (with the opportunity for further extension)

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

Applications close on 24 February 2017.



**Australian College of  
Rural & Remote Medicine**  
WORLD LEADERS IN RURAL PRACTICE

### **ACRRM Mental Health Disorders Training - Access Medicare Items Numbers 2715 & 2717**

The need for mental health care is on the rise and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) want to ensure their members, and all other

medical professionals, have the ability to understand and manage those patients requiring such care with the correct expertise.

ACRRM are offering a [Mental Health Disorders Training for Rural Practitioners \(MHST\) course](#), starting at 7.30pm (AEST) on 6 February, and running over six consecutive weeks, with each session running for one hour.

The online course ensures you gain an understanding in:

- depression and risk
- organising chronic care and comorbidity
- anxiety and somatisation
- patient education and support using medication, and
- chronic care.

Upon completion of the course, participants have access to Medicare item numbers 2715 and 2717.

[The course is also being offered in May-June.](#)

[Find out more >>](#)

### **GP Participation Opportunity**

The University of New England is undertaking some research which looks at understanding General Practitioners' experience and difficulties in treating psychological injuries in NSW under WorkCover and CTP.

They would like to interview six to eight GPs for this research and offer an honorarium of \$250. Each confidential interview would take between 45-60 minutes and can be undertaken face to face or via teleconference (for regionally based GPs).

The title of the research is: *Evidence-based practice used by psychologists treating secondary psychological injuries* within the State Insurance Regulatory Authority governed frameworks (i.e. Workers Compensation Insurance and Motor Accidents Compulsory Third Party Insurance).

[Find out more >>](#)



### **Divers Given Green Light - ADS Releases New Position Statement on Diabetes & Diving**

The Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) has published a new position statement on diving for people with insulin-requiring diabetes.



The ADS recognises that people with well-controlled diabetes are able to participate safely in recreational diving with the appropriate preparation, experience and adherence to the new recommendations.

The new position statement provides healthcare professionals with criteria to assist them in determining a person's suitability to dive and protocols to ensure they dive safely.

[Find out more >>](#)

## An Opportunity to Have Your Say on Digital Health

The Australian Digital Health Agency wants to hear from you on what you think is important in the world of Digital Health.

Whether you're a patient, a member of the public, a healthcare provider, scientist, researcher, entrepreneur or technology innovator, you're invited to take an online survey or provide a written submission. More information and links to the online survey can be found on the [Australian Digital Health Agency website](#).

Submissions will be collected until Tuesday 31 January 2017, 5pm AEDT.

[Find out more >>](#)

## 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:

- [Palliative Care & the Last Hours of Life](#) - 7 February, Orange
- [Care Planning for the Patient with Multimorbidities](#) - 7 February, Webinar
- [Diabetes Management - The Practice Principles](#) - 9 February, Dubbo (**NEW PLACES AVAILABLE; NEW VENUE**)
- [Breast Cancer Update](#) - 9 February, Bathurst
- [Masterclass: Colorectal Cancer](#) - 15 February, Orange
- [Cervical Screening Update](#) - 2 March, Dubbo
- [Masterclass: Macular Degeneration](#) - 21 March, Mudgee
- [GP Synergy Regional Workshop](#) - 3-5 April, Dubbo
- [National Rural Health Conference](#) - 26-29 April, Cairns QLD
- [Chronic Disease Self Management](#) - 22-25 May, Dubbo
- [GP Synergy Fusion Workshop](#) - 21-23 June, Sydney

[Full events calendar >>](#)

**The WNSW PHN's Aboriginal motif was created by Wiradjuri artist Lewis Burns.**

*It's a story of living off the land. A strong flowing river provides fresh, clean water for those living beside it in camps. At campfires, people cook from the earth, with abundant natural foods they've hunted and gathered. As a community, people respect the earth and their country, united in a healthy lifestyle.*



## Contact Western NSW PHN

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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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