

Clinical Communique

Issue 7 - 25 August 2016

GP Views - Dr Caroline Renko, Bathurst

Dr Caroline Renko moved from Sydney to Bathurst in 1995 with her husband (a General Surgeon) and children, initially working in a large group General Practice. Having always had an interest in Women's Health and Obstetrics (holding a DRANZCOG), she soon started her solo practice seeing women and children (initially at the Central West Womens' Health Centre and then moving to the current location, the Russell Street Specialist Centre).

Living and working in the Central West as a solo GP for 16 years has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience for Dr Renko. She sees one of the biggest challenges facing medicine in the Central West as the need to attract new graduates to the region in all areas of medicine, replacing the ageing workforce and maintaining current standards of care. As an accredited general practitioner, she is involved in training medical students.

Dr Renko sees the improvement of other services, particularly in adolescent mental health, as an important focus for the future. She finds the youth of today inspiring in their personal integrity and open-mindedness and believes to support them, supports a strong future for all of us.



Dubbo Forum Connects Medical Professionals

Last month, the Western NSW Primary Health Network and Western NSW Local Health District held a forum in Dubbo, to help improve communication between local GPs, Specialists, Health Care Professionals, Pharmacists and executive staff.

The forum proved to be a great success, with attendees finding it an ideal opportunity to interact with colleagues, meet other health professionals in the community and discuss any issues of concern

with the WNSW PHN and the WNSWLHD. It also provided an opportunity for forward planning and a platform for improved communications in the future.

Hearing Help Launches Today

This week marks **National Hearing Awareness Week** and Australian Hearing is launching a new service, **Hearing Help** - the first service of its kind to offer free, easy and direct access to a hearing specialist.

 **Hearing Help**

Hearing Help will address the needs of people in Australia who have recently been found to:

- Not know where to find guidance on hearing support

- Wait, on average, eight years to take action for their own, or their loved one's hearing loss

One in six people experience some form of hearing loss in Australia and this rate doubles for those over the age of 60, so Hearing Help is a great new service, particularly for the older generation.

Hearing Help will reduce the need to physically visit a GP, or Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist for initial hearing advice and is the first helpline purely dedicated to hearing, putting people directly in touch with a fully qualified hearing specialist, either over the phone or via live web chat, incurring no out-of-pocket expenses.

[Find out more >>](#)

POSITIONS VACANT - Western NSW Primary Health Network is Recruiting

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

Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Senior Project Officer (Dubbo, Bathurst or Orange)

Fixed term contract until 30 June 2017

Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Manager (Dubbo, Bathurst or Orange)

Fixed term contract until 30 June 2018

Aboriginal Health Manager (Dubbo)

Fixed term contract until 30 June 2018

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 all three positions close at 5pm, 9 September 2016.

[Find out more >>](#)

5th Edition Standards for General Practices



RACGP

The RACGP is currently developing the next edition of the RACGP Standards for general practices (the Standards). The 5th edition of the Standards builds on the 4th edition Standards and will be released in October 2017.

One of the largest changes between the 4th and 5th editions of the Standards is the move from process-focused to outcome-focused Indicators. Outcome-focused means that the Indicator focuses on the outcome or the intent rather than the process required to meet that intent. This approach gives practices greater scope to set up systems and processes that reflect the working arrangements in their practice and will be easier to maintain after their accreditation assessment.

The RACGP has released the second draft of the 5th edition Standards for consultation. This consultation phase runs until the end of September. As well as seeking feedback on the draft, the RACGP have also recorded a webinar that provides practices with more information on the changes in the 5th edition Standards.

- [View the webinar](#)
- [Provide comment on the draft 5th edition Standards](#)

[Find out more >>](#)

Cancer Institute NSW Seeks GPs for Lung Cancer Study

The Cancer Institute NSW seeks GPs to be advisors on a study examining the care pathways of people with lung cancer in NSW. This retrospective study will examine the diagnosis and treatment patterns of people diagnosed with lung cancer who are participants of the 45 and Up Study. The 45 and Up Study provides a unique resource to study health service use in the primary, community and tertiary care settings as participants have consented to the linkage of their health records, including



MBS, PBS, hospital admission and emergency department attendance data. We will be focussing on the use of imaging and specialist referral in the lead up to diagnosis and the impact of comorbidities on treatment pathways.

We are seeking GPs with an interest in cancer and the management of COPD to advise on the study methods (eg attendances, procedures and prescriptions and their item numbers in the MBS and PBS) and the interpretation of the study results. It is anticipated that the study will be for a period of 6 months and require a time commitment of 2-3 hours per month for the review of documents and meetings via teleconference. There is the possibility of joint authorship on publications which arise from this work.

Those interested should contact Nicola Creighton (Nicola.Creighton@cancerinstitute.org.au, 02 8374 3612).

My Health Record - Setting the Record Straight on Privacy

There has been a lot of discussion circulating in the media, both positive and negative, around online privacy. With the number of My Health Record registrations growing, it's important to set the record straight. The Department of Health digital bulletin states the following:

“The privacy of people’s personal information is taken extremely seriously. A range of legislative and technical mechanisms work together to ensure the privacy and security of people’s information in the My Health Record system.

My Health Record uses bank-strength security including strong encryption and firewalls, secure logins and audit trails. It meets Australian Government Security Standards and is regularly tested for security compliance and vulnerability.

These standards are regularly updated to address emerging cyber-threats.

Further, the unauthorised collection, use or disclosure of information in the My Health Record system, is subject to both civil and criminal penalties where an action is deliberate or reckless.”

Further information about the My Health Record system’s privacy and security policies can be found [here](#).

[Find out more >>](#)



My Health Record

Practitioner Changes & New Contact Details

Dr Kamaladasa and the **Cardiology Outpatient Service at the Specialist Medical Centre in Dubbo** are currently unable to accept new referrals due to staff shortages and an extended wait list. This is a TEMPORARY closure. Information will be provided when additional Cardiologists are available. Specialist Medical Centre apologise for the inconvenience.

Argus Updates

- Bathurst GPs referring to the Physio Department at Bathurst Hospital can now refer via Argus (WNSWLHD-ccbbhphysio@health.nsw.gov.au).
- Dr Mallawathantri is no longer at the Specialist Medical Centre in Dubbo. Please update Argus address books with her new details at the Dubbo Base Hospital (WNSWLHD-ccdubcapac@health.nsw.gov.au).

Dr Bala Indrajit Urological Surgeon, Dubbo is now practising from 'Greater Western Urology' at Level 2, Dubbo Private Hospital. Dr Indrajit is still taking referrals for public patients. Please contact Dr Indrajit's rooms on 02 6881 6715.

Training and Events

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

- [Alzheimer's Australia NSW Memory Van](#) - 31 August, Nyngan
- [Overactive Bladder: the GPs role in diagnosis, management & treatment](#) - 31 August, Dubbo
- [Antenatal Workshop](#) - 7 September, Bathurst
- [LGBTI Inclusion Workshop](#) - 8 September, Broken Hill
- [Perineal Injury Repair Course and Hands-on Workshop](#) - 10 September, Dubbo
- [Cardiology Masterclass](#) - 14 September, Orange
- [Otitis Media & Aural Health Care Program](#) - 15 September, Walgett
- [Emergency Masterclass Simulated Education](#) - 16/17 September, Lightning Ridge
- [Diabetes Update Day](#) - 17 September, Sydney
- [HIV s100 Prescriber Course](#) - 17 September, Sydney
- [Emergency Masterclass Simulated Education](#) - 14/15 October, Coonabarabran
- [Otitis Media & Aural Health Care Program](#) - 22 October, Bathurst
- [Foot Health Assessment Program](#) - 26 October, Walgett
- [Emergency Masterclass Simulated Education](#) - 28/29 October, Bourke
- [Medico Masterclass: Cervical Spine Problems](#) - 3 November, Mudgee
- [ACRRM Rural Emergency Skills Training](#) - 5/6 November, Dubbo

[Full events calendar >>](#)

Contact Western NSW PHN

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