

# ***GSNV UPDATE***

**February 03**



*Professor Fiona Stanley*

## ***Heard The Good News?***

### **Child Health Expert Named Australian of the Year**

A lifetime of hard work, endless dedication and enthusiasm in improving the health of Australian children has led to Professor Fiona Stanley being named 2003 Australian of the Year.

Professor Stanley believes we must get things right with the health of children and families now if Australia is to have a healthy future. As founding director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Western Australia in 1990, Fiona brought together clinical, laboratory and population health scientists to tackle the major issues in child health.

## ***Topping Up The Coffers***

Don't forget the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants mentioned in last month's update:

[http://www.facs.gov.au/sfcs/funding/sml equip\\_grants.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/sfcs/funding/sml equip_grants.htm) or 1800 018 312.

### **ANZ Charitable Trusts**

ANZ manage a number of Victorian trusts that fund programs to provide support services for families with complex needs. For more information call 1800 808 910 or go to

<http://www.anz.com.au/australia/charitabletrusts/Guidelines.asp>

### **Churchill Fellowship**

Apply now for a Churchill Fellowship to travel overseas for your group. Travelling scholarships for around \$20,000 may be awarded. Closing date is February 28 and more information can be found at [www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au) or by calling 1800 777 231.

### **Toys R U?**

The Toy Charity of Australia Foundation recognises Australian children have a diverse range of needs and provision must be made to assist them live healthy, happy and balanced lives. This charity can support groups and can assist in funding for children's wheelchairs. For information about how the Toy Charity of Australia Foundation can help you, visit

<http://www.austoy.com.au/kidsday/toycfa.htm> or call (03) 9320 2600.

### **Small Group? Not Well Known?**

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation financially assists smaller and lesser known groups which don't have access to widespread publicity and professional fundraising. Sound familiar? Contact Kem

Mayberry at [brockhoff@ozemail.com.au](mailto:brockhoff@ozemail.com.au) or (03) 9842 0667 to discuss your project funding needs.

### **BHP Billiton**

Do you have a long-term project that will provide sustainable benefits to the Australian community? If so, BHP Billiton may be able to assist you. More information can be found at

<http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/sustainableDevelopment/community/supportGuidelinesFoundations.jsp> or by calling Ms Helen Lomen on (03) 9609 3596.

## **Macquarie Bank**

Every year a portion of the Bank's annual profit goes to programs benefiting the communities of which Macquarie is a part. Areas of education, the arts, health research and health care, welfare and the environment are all eligible for funding.

You can find out more by calling Julie White on (02) 8232 9673 or visiting

[http://www.macquarie.com.au/au/about\\_macquarie/macquarie\\_in\\_the\\_community.htm](http://www.macquarie.com.au/au/about_macquarie/macquarie_in_the_community.htm)

## **Trying to Establish a New Foundation?**

Some families have asked how to start a new foundation to raise money for research or support for their particular condition. The Perpetual Foundation can help you with this. Find out more about this service at <http://www.perpetual.com.au/CPS/estcf.htm> or by calling 1800 501 227.

## **Think Local**

Don't forget that your local council may be able to provide small amounts of funding for your local support group. Horsham Rural City Council and Surf Coast Shire have opportunities at the moment - maybe YOUR council does too.

## **Expand Your Mind**

### **COSHG Workshops 2003**

'Setting Up New Groups' is a great workshop for people who want to set up a new self help group To be held on February 22, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the COSHG Office, 22 Pitt St Carlton. Please contact the COSHG Office for more information or if you would like to attend on (03) 9349 2301



## **Have A Say**

### **'Moving Forward' - Conference for People with a Disability**

March 12 - 14 at Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre.

Participants will 'have a say' about issues affecting their lives; to celebrate ability and achievement; to participate in new activities with support and to be part of developing strategies to address issues and recommendations made at the conference. Full registration for the three days is \$60.00, single day registration is \$20.00.

Some funds from the Dept. Human Services are available to sponsor those in need (please contact Christine Scott). For further information call Paul Brady (03) 5232 1009 or Christine Scott (03) 9416 4003 (rural clients - Freecall 1800 655 570).

### **Acute Pain Management Workshop**

The Victorian Quality Council is holding a workshop for health care providers and pain sufferers to discuss improved management of acute pain in Victorian hospitals. To be held February 26, 7.30am to 5.00pm at the Hilton Hotel, Melbourne. The workshop will help to identify, from a consumer perspective, what is important in managing pain and ideally four consumers are sought who have some experience with acute pain in a public hospital. A range of consumer perspectives is sought and it does not matter whether the experience of acute pain was good or bad. A sitting fee will be paid and costs related to attending the workshop will be reimbursed.

To attend the workshop or receive further information contact:

Lesley Thornton (03) 9616 1385 or email: [Lesley.Thornton@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lesley.Thornton@dhs.vic.gov.au) before 19 February 2003

### **Making Step Families Work: It Can Be Difficult, It Can Be Fun!**

Parenting can be exciting, rewarding and full of surprises but also frustrating, demanding and at times very exhausting. Parents in step-families are faced with extra and different demands, roles and

expectations. This four week program will look at the complexities of living in step-families and encourage parents to share their ideas and strategies, as well as learn some new ones. Presented by Loddon Mallee Regional Parenting Services, Centacare, 185 McCrae Street, Bendigo. To be held Tuesdays, February 25 March 4, 11 & 18 2003, 7.00pm - 9.30pm Cost: Free! For more information and to register a place, please contact Deb Western, on (03) 5442 7525

### **"Creating a Better Reality" - Developing a Family Support Model for children with Attention Deficit Disorder and their families in rural Victoria**

A Working Group of parents, service providers and Department of Human Services staff is conducting a Workshop to help solve issues faced by families of children with Attention Deficit Disorder in rural Victoria. The Workshop will be an open forum and it is hoped a wide cross section of people will contribute.

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Date: Thursday, March 6

Venue: Banquet Room, Capital Theatre 50 View Street, Bendigo

For further information please contact: FOCDSG on 5442 7897, Fred Wachtel on (03) 5434 5634 or Deanna Davis on (03) 5333 6029 or email: [fred.wachtel@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:fred.wachtel@dhs.vic.gov.au) or [deanna.davis@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:deanna.davis@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### **Surfing The Web**



The latest edition of the Regional Health Check Newsletter is now online at [www.ruralhealth.gov.au](http://www.ruralhealth.gov.au). This edition has an Australian flavour with articles on allied health workers going to rural and remote communities, Family Support Weekends in the Northern Territory helping to 'salvage the sanity' of GPs in remote areas, rural clinical schools providing exciting opportunities for students keen to work in rural or remote health and more.

For printed copies please email [ruralhealth@health.gov.au](mailto:ruralhealth@health.gov.au) or call 1800 020 787

### **Eat, Drink And Be Merry – Groups' Activities**

#### **Information Evening on Depression for Adults and Adolescents**

Dr Sallee McLaren will be presenting a talk on adolescent depression and anxiety. The talk, aimed at parents and teens, will focus on why teenagers are likely to become depressed and what can be done about it. Better strategies for coping with life to prevent psychological difficulties will be discussed as well as dealing with established teenage blues. To be held Monday February 17, 7.00pm at Kerrimuir Primary School, Molbray St Box Hill. Cost is \$10pp. For more information contact ADAVIC at [adavic@adavic.org](mailto:adavic@adavic.org) or call (03) 9853 8089

#### **Aussie Hands First Fundraiser**

Aussie Hands is a support group that provides networking, understanding and encouragement to parents, children and teenagers with a hand difference. Everyone is invited to the first Aussie Hands Foundation Fundraiser to be held on Saturday March 1 at 'Nylon' Level 1 36 Little LaTrobe St Melbourne. Entry is \$10 with drinks at bar prices and lots of finger food. Please come along to make the day a success. RSVP by February 21 to Elizabeth Serpell at [lizz@hotmail.net.au](mailto:lizz@hotmail.net.au)

#### **Royal Children's Hospital Expo**

The RCH Expo 2003 'Connexions: Empowering Children & Families through Technology and Shared Information' will be held on March 27 and 28 in the Ella Latham Lecture Theatre Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville. The expo will spread information about services and allow networking between the education and health sectors. For further information about the expo visit the hospitals website at [http://www.rch.org.au/expo/index.cfm?doc\\_id=2531](http://www.rch.org.au/expo/index.cfm?doc_id=2531)

Further information on upcoming activities can be found on the GSNV website at <http://www.gsnv.org.au/pages/news&events/events/events.php>  
If your group has an event you would like listed please email details to Emma at [erickard@gsnv.org.au](mailto:erickard@gsnv.org.au) or call the GSNV Office.

## ***In The Limelight***

### **Schooling for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Following on from the public meeting held in October 2002, a working group will report on the Strategy Plan for better school options and supports for children with ASD. The meeting will be held at the Nerve Centre, MS Society, 54 Railway Parade, Blackburn on Tuesday February 25 at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in attending or who would like further information on the 'What Can I Do?' sheet or who would like a copy of the letter template please contact Lynda Shea on (03) 5253 2329 or email [dshea@vtown.com.au](mailto:dshea@vtown.com.au).

### **From the Genetic Alliance**

Recently the Genetic Alliance of the USA has moved to open annual membership registration for current and new members of the Genetic Alliance. Why are they opening up their doors and reaching out to new members? Why do they want to expand their coalition of individuals, families, health professionals, researchers and lay advocacy organisations? Genetic Alliance is taking this step because genetics is about ALL of us, and because broad-based public input is essential to integrating genetics into health care. Broadly representative, diverse and energetic, the Alliance will help speed the translation of research into treatment and services. You can find out more about GA at <http://www.geneticalliance.org/members/onlineregistration.html>

## ***We'll Meet Again...***

<p><b>REMINDER</b> <b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> 6pm February 19 Conference Room B 10<sup>th</sup> Floor RCH, Flemington Rd Parkville</p>
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## ***Claims And Concessions***

### **Companion Card Scheme**

[http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilitysite.nsf/pages/companion\\_card?Open](http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilitysite.nsf/pages/companion_card?Open)

The purpose of the Companion Card Scheme is to assist people who have a severe or profound disability to access leisure and recreational opportunities. The scheme is designed to reduce the financial burden associated with the admission costs to sport, entertainment and recreation venues/events for an accompanying carer.

Approved cardholders will be entitled to be charged for one admission only, when it is necessary for the person to be assisted by a carer (unpaid or paid) in order to access a sporting, entertainment or recreation venue / event supporting the Companion Card Scheme. For more information visit the website or call Free Call 1800 650 611.

**For more information on anything you've read here, please contact Eilís or Emma in the GSNV office on (03) 8341-6315 or email [info@gsnv.org.au](mailto:info@gsnv.org.au)**