



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN ACTION

Issue 19 November 2009

Rural Health Week Expo @ LGH



Come see what Tasmania's Northern rural hospitals and health centres have to offer.

When?

Monday 9 November, between 10am – 4pm

Where?

Lecture Theatre 1, level 2 (near the cafeteria)

For Health Professionals:

- Would you like to expand your clinical horizons?
- Would you like more professional autonomy?
- Have you got skills to share?

Come along and listen to the possibilities out there in rural and regional Northern Tasmania ...

For Everybody:

You are welcome attend to see what happens at each of the sites.

There will be displays, DVD screenings, leaflets and staff available to talk, from the Northern rural sites and support services.

The University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) will have a stand as well. The UDRH are also offering a book voucher prize for the best display.

Refreshments will be provided.

Expo info: Catherine Frost Primary Health North Ph: 6336 4141; catherine.frost@dhhs.tas.gov.au or Kellie Jarman Primary Health North Ph: 6336 2648; kellie.jarman@dhhs.tas.gov.au THP

Sneak Peak from Rural Health Week: What's On at the George Town Hospital and Community Centre?



Multidisciplinary Teamwork at George Town

Back L-R: RN Dionne Stephens, ENs Natalie McDonald & Penny Housego, and Hospital Aide Harvey Gibbons

Front L-R: Drs Philip Dawson, Ashraf Islam and Brian Bowring, Community Nurse Belinda Lawrence, and Drs Jane Zimmerman and Clare Cercez.

Beth Smith, the Director of Nursing at the George Town Hospital and Community Centre, sent in this photo of last Friday's weekly multidisciplinary team meeting, held in the Handover Room.

Beth said that, when putting their presentation together, her team decided that what really typified their service was the focus on safety and quality and their multidisciplinary teamwork really helped to ensure that the service was constantly improving.

"We have a brand new facility", Beth said, "and this has really helped build a new culture of learning and collaboration. This extra space allows any of the staff who are working that week to meet together each Friday. This is important for sharing information in readiness for the weekend, involving students, and creating a good, shared understanding of patients' needs both within the hospital and out in the community." THP

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Central Highlands Independent Living Units Start to Take Shape!



Construction on the four independent living units began on 14 September and has progressed rapidly since this date.

In the seven weeks since commencement 2000cm² of soil has been relocated, site infrastructure (ie plumbing, stormwater) has been installed, slabs poured and all units roofed and framed. In the coming weeks cladding and internal plastering will take place.

Service Planning for Kingborough

An independent consultant has been engaged to develop a Service Plan for Kingborough services:

An expansion of the Kingston Community Health Centre by 2012 and the development of an Integrated Care Centre by 2016.

The Service Plan will identify the range of health services and type of facilities that will be required to meet the health needs of the Kingborough Municipality and surrounding communities and will describe a service model that will guide the development of the two stage facility.^{THP}

Get Your Swine Flu Vaccination!

Health Minister Lara Giddings has urged Tasmanians to take the opportunity to be vaccinated against H1N1 flu, and warned that despite the end of winter the virus was still a serious threat.

Pandemic influenza has not gone away and continues to circulate in the Tasmanian community so we must not be complacent.

GPs are currently conducting vaccinations, provided free to all Australians, however service charges may be applied by the vaccine provider.^{THP}

Tasmania Health & Human Services Annual Report Out Now

Despite the unexpected challenges presented by the global financial crisis and the H1N1 influenza, the past year has been one in which the implementation of the reform agenda and a new organisational structure has continued and been consolidated.

We are now well into the implementation stage of the most significant health reform the State has ever undertaken and the benefits are already apparent.

A number of health and wellbeing indicators show improvement over time:

- Life expectancy for both males and females is increasing in Tasmania.
- Rate of avoidable mortality has decreased.
- Self-assessed health status has improved.
- The proportion of the adult population who eat at least five serves of vegetables per day is well above the national average and the proportion which eats at least two serves of fruit per day increased.
- Tasmania's hospitals performed 1637 additional elective surgery operations and an extra 1002 cataract procedures during the financial year.

Conversely, there is still much work to be done, particularly in the health areas identified below:

- The smoking rate has increased slightly.
- The proportion of Tasmanians at risk of long-term alcohol-related harm has increased.
- Physical inactivity has increased.
- Overweight and obesity rates have increased.
- The percentage of mothers still breastfeeding at six months has decreased.
- The vaccine coverage for children aged 12-15 months and for children 24-27 months has decreased.
- The rate of potentially avoidable hospitalisations has increased slightly.
- The rate of age-standardised mortality remains significantly above the national rate.

The Annual Report 2008-2009 is available at:
http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/48277/DHHS_Annual_Report_08-09_PartsI-and-2.pdf .THP

Tasmania's Health Plan

To find out more:

visit www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/thp

email future.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au

call 6233 3964