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### **Network Dates:**

Reference group meeting –08/12/2008

DHS meeting – 19/01/2008

### **Newsletter submissions:**

Submissions to be emailed to [sharris@bendigohealth.org.au](mailto:sharris@bendigohealth.org.au)

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Recent work of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network (LMAHN) has focused on professional development opportunities including:

- 2008-09 LMAHN Education and Support Programs
- 2009 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference Planning
- working with the Northern Mallee Workforce Group to increase CPD opportunities for allied health professionals in the Northern Mallee region
- working with the CPD for allied health program to arrange sessions in our region, and
- communicating information on CPD opportunities to allied health professionals across the region.

Some of these programs are discussed in further detail later in this newsletter.

Access to videoconferencing has improved, allowing us increased opportunities to provide education programs and improve communication across the region. Technology advancements also allow increased access to CPD events which can be viewed via the internet on sites such as CPD for allied health ( <http://www.cpdforalliedhealth.org> ) and Rural Health Education Foundation ( <http://www.rhef.com.au> ).

If you have any CPD suggestions or queries please contact me.

Sally Harris

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## 2008-09 LMAHN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The “Building Evidence for Practice” and “Supporting Clinical Educators” programs are continuing. A total of eight sessions have now been conducted with six sites participating in each.

We have been fortunate to have a mix of academics and experienced allied health clinicians present the sessions and share their knowledge of research and supervision.

The full program of presentation is included at Page 4 of this newsletter. The topics of both programs can be revised so if there is a topic you would like to see covered please contact Sally Harris.

The November sessions are:

- **Completing a systematic literature review - 03/11/08, 4pm**
- **Innovative placements - 17/11/08, 4pm**

**Don't forget to register for the sessions with Sally Harris**

### **2009 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference CHANGE: EMBRACE WHAT'S NEW**

The 2009 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference will be held in **Bendigo** on Friday **February 27 2009**. Mark the date in your diaries.

Planning has commenced with an eager group of allied health professionals from a range of disciplines and health care organisations beginning work on developing the program. The conference will focus on the **changing** environment in which allied health professionals work.

Abstracts for papers and posters are being accepted until December 1 2008. Please see the "Call for papers" information at the back of this newsletter for further information. If you have an experience of change in allied health practice or education we would love to hear about it.

For any queries or suggestions of topics or speakers please contact Sally Harris.

### **2009 RURAL ALLIED HEALTH POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program supports rural allied health practitioners who have demonstrated their involvement in, and commitment to, rural allied health practice to improve their skills and expertise through postgraduate studies. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program aims to assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by rural practitioners accessing education.

Postgraduate scholarships are available for permanent or contract employees of a public sector health services (RRMA 3-7) who intend to commence an eligible postgraduate course in 2009. Scholarships will be granted for postgraduate studies in either an allied health specific discipline or management, health promotion and public health studies.

The level of funding for Postgraduate Scholarships varies according to the level of qualification being attained:

PhD \$10000	Masters \$7500	Graduate Diploma \$5000
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For further information, including the guidelines and application form, go to <http://www.vha.org.au/>

### **A CENTRE FOR ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH: FOCUS GROUP**

The Menzies Foundation is supporting a scoping study to explore the need for an Allied Health Research Centre in Australia. Allied health professionals from the Loddon Mallee region have been invited to participate in a focus group to discuss:

- the need for such a Research Centre
- where it should be situated
- the arrangements for its governance/ ongoing management.
- what services it could provide
- how it should be operated and be funded, and

The focus group will be held on Monday December 1 2008 from 3-4pm (before the December "Building Evidence for Practice" session). It will be held in Bendigo and videoconferenced to other sites in the region. If you would like the opportunity to have a voice about this potential development, please register with Sally Harris who can arrange videoconference links.

### CPD EVENTS

The events page of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network website ([http://www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au/events\\_calendar.asp](http://www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au/events_calendar.asp)) is regularly updated to include information on upcoming CPD events. Efforts are being made to include as many events as possible on this site so that information about the events can be accessed at any time. Some of the events that are currently listed are:

#### CPD for allied health professional skills seminars

Presenter: Stephen Duns, MentoringWorks

Wednesday November 5 2008

- |             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.00 - 2.45 | <b>Time Management</b>             |
| 2.45 – 3.00 | Afternoon Tea (Gold coin donation) |
| 3.00 – 4.30 | <b>Conflict Resolution</b>         |
| 5.00 - 6.30 | <b>Team Work</b>                   |

No cost

Further information available from <http://www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au/viewEvent.asp?eventID=105>  
Registrations to Sally Harris or Lianne Craig

#### Rural Podiatry Network presentation

#### Lower Limb Skin Cancers and Introduction to Dermoscopy

Presenter: Ass Prof Anthony Dixon

Friday December 12 2008

1-4pm

Castlemaine

Cost \$110

Further information and registrations: 5471 1572/ [podiatry@mtalexhosp.vic.gov.au](mailto:podiatry@mtalexhosp.vic.gov.au)  
Flyer available at <http://www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au/viewEvent.asp?eventID=106>

### FUNDING FOR RURAL ALLIED HEALTH TO PARTICIPATE IN CPD

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for allied health practitioners provides up to \$1,000 per successful applicant to assist rural Victorian allied health practitioners to attend conferences and skill development opportunities. It is available all year round although applications need to be lodged 2 months prior to the event. This fund does not assist with formal tertiary qualifications. The guidelines and applications forms are available from the VHA website – <http://www.vha.org.au/>



## LODDON MALLEE ALLIED HEALTH NETWORK 2008-09 EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Date	Building evidence for practice (First Monday of each month 4pm) Topic	Supporting clinical educators (Third Monday of each month 4pm) Topic
07/07/08	Developing a research question, team and methodological approach	
21/07/08		Introduction to supervision
04/08/08	Writing a research proposal	
18/08/08		Roles of the clinical educator
01/09/08	Preparing a budget and seeking funding	
15/09/08		Learning styles - how do students learn? - what is your learning style?
06/10/08	Research ethics/ Preparing an ethics application	
20/10/08		Challenges in clinical education- skills for problem resolution
03/11/08	Completing a systematic literature review	
17/11/08		Innovative placements
01/12/08	Critical appraisal of literature	
Christmas / New Year break		
02/02/09	Choosing and implementing qualitative designs	
16/02/09		Preventing burnout - looking after yourself/ juggling your caseload and students
02/03/09	Choosing and implementing quantitative designs	
16/03/09		Evaluating your teaching/ Developing a teaching portfolio
06/04/09	Designing and implementing studies with a clinical intervention component	
20/04/09		Further topic raised during program - if relevant
04/05/09	Communicating research results - Report writing. - Writing for publication. - Conference presentations - oral and posters.	
18/05/09		Further topic raised during program - if relevant
01/06/09	Post-graduate qualification opportunities	

Dates/topics may be subject to change

## 2009 LODDON MALLEE ALLIED HEALTH CONFERENCE CHANGE: EMBRACE WHAT'S NEW

Bendigo  
February 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

The Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network invites all allied health staff to participate in their sixth annual conference: “CHANGE: EMBRACE WHAT'S NEW”.

### Conference Aims:

The conference will provide all rural and regional allied health practitioners, managers and educational institutions with the opportunity to update their knowledge and skills while being able to network with other staff within the region.

### Key Objectives:

- To showcase change and emerging trends in allied health clinical practice and education
- To provide the opportunity for allied health staff to gain experience through presenting at a conference.
- Provide the opportunity for exposure to the ways other clinical services are meeting challenges in clinical practice
- To highlight the use of practice standards within services
- Provide leadership and management information

### Call for Papers and Posters:

Papers and posters demonstrating the following **key themes** are invited for submission:

- Collaborative care
- Chronic Disease Management
- Management skills which enhance practice and service delivery
- Innovative services or work practices
- Demonstration of a rural service
- Future directions of health care eg Workforce redesign
- Innovative allied health education and clinical placements

### Who should attend:

- Allied health professionals from all sectors of health care, including public and private practitioners
- Managers
- University staff and students

### Abstract submission

The submission of abstracts should be consistent with the following guidelines.

1. Document to be presented as a Microsoft Word document.
2. Submitted via email to [sharris@bendigohealth.org.au](mailto:sharris@bendigohealth.org.au)
3. Abstracts should include abstract title, preferred presentation type (poster or paper), names of authors and affiliations and contact details. It should outline aims, methods, results, conclusions and practical applications/relevance for other allied health professionals and services.
4. Abstracts should be less than 350 words.

### Papers

Successful applicants will be asked to provide their presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint format. Presenters will be allocated 15 minutes presentation time and 5 minutes for questions and discussion.

### Posters

Successful applicants will be forwarded general guidelines for their poster presentation. Posters should measure no more than 900 mm x 900mm.

### Key Dates:

01/12/2008	Final date for abstract submission
12/01/2009	Program finalised
09/02/2009	Power point presentations due

- Free registration for the presenter of each paper
- Prizes to be awarded for Best Poster and Best first time presenter

### For further information please contact:

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