



Weekly News
Wednesday 16th June 2010

Please distribute to GPs and staff in your practice

ACCESS TO ALLIED PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (ATAPS) ** FUNDING AVAILABLE **

- GP Network welcomes all GPs to refer patients to the ATAPS program
- Referrals are capped each month and allocated as they are received.
- For more information please visit our website www.gpnn.org.au or phone **9477 8700**

RYDE HOSPITAL GP NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION FAX SURVEY – HAVE YOUR SAY!

- GPNN and Ryde Hospital have commissioned Outcome Services to evaluate the Admission Alert Fax (AAF) program, which has been notifying GPs of their patient's admission to Ryde Hospital via the Emergency Department
- GPs will soon receive an invitation to participate in a survey via email or post with the hope of gaining valuable feedback about the program and ways that we can improve the service
- If you do not receive your survey form or email and you would like to provide feedback, please contact **Simone Southon** at GPNN on **9477 8700** or email simone@gpnn.org.au

STEPS PLUS – A FOUR YEAR OLD HEALTH CHECK PROJECT

- Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service (NSCCAHS) has received funding to undertake a pilot Statewide Eyesight Pre-Schooler Screening Program, incorporating the four year health check program
- The program's target group will be four year old children, possibly identified as vulnerable and/or unlikely to attend for a Healthy Kids Check with a GP
- The four year old before school check includes – the StEPS vision screen, hearing, weight, Body Mass Index(BMI), height, gait, oral health "Lift the Lip", Parental Evaluation Developmental Screening, immunisation status and health questionnaire
- The program aims to increase awareness of the importance of the four year old health check; increase opportunities for four year old children to participate in the recommended screening program prior to school entry; identify children with existing health problems or difficulties that may impact their school experience and link children requiring additional assessment or intervention with appropriate services
- The program will be conducted from June to August 2010 and may involve referral to the child's nominated GP
- For additional information regarding the program please call **Therese Salole** or **Annika Peel**, Acting StEPS Coordinators at Area Child & Family Health on **9926 5007**

HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE

- Home Instead Senior Care is a private, non-medical provider of home care services for older people including companionship, personal assistance with showering and dressing, meal preparation, light housekeeping, medication reminders, errands and transport to shopping and appointments
- Our CAREGivers encourage, assist and stimulate our clients in a variety of daily activities that improve their quality of life and help them maintain their independence
- There are no prior assessments required and Home Instead Senior Care provides a very flexible and responsive option for assisting the elderly to remain in their own homes for as long as possible
- For more information please visit www.homeinstead.com.au or contact **Leigh McCosker** on **9144 2322** or email leigh.mccosker@homeinstead.com.au

VITAMIN D – ESSENTIAL FOR STRONG BONES

- There is some evidence that vitamin D deficiency may increase the risk for bowel cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. To date this evidence is as yet inconclusive
- Australia has both high levels of UV radiation and among the world's highest rates of melanoma and other skin cancers. More than 1700 people die from skin cancer every year
- Cancer Council recommends a balance is required between avoiding an increase in the risk of skin cancer and achieving enough sun exposure to maintain adequate vitamin D levels
- Imparting these message to patients is not always straightforward, for assistance please contact the Cancer Council for more information regarding: Current Australian recommendations, Identifying Patients at higher risk of vitamin D deficiency
- For more information call **Cancer Council 13 11 20** or visit www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart