

Conveners' Corner

Dr Bruce Simmons & Dr Andrea de Silva-Sanigorski



Welcome to the Oral Health SIG for 2011. We are looking forward to an exciting and stimulating year ahead. Our current activity revolves around advocacy, supporting our SIG members and linking with related activities in other SIGs within the PHAA. In relation to advocacy, current policy issues are BIG - achieving a fairer oral health care system, fluoridation of community water supplies, integrating oral health care into primary health care

delivery systems and workforce growth and development.

We'll aim to inform and support SIG members through disseminating this newsletter three times each year and also look at the possibility of using social networking media to let you know about and contribute to emerging issues of interest - we'd love to hear your thoughts on that idea!

In your new look newsletter we will try to provide a mix of

information related to current OH SIG activities, new research and profiles of our membership and State activities.

You can contribute to the next edition, including opinion pieces, at any time. Just email Lauren Prosser at lauren.prosser@dhsv.org.au

We have included information about the upcoming PHAA annual conference to be held in late September in Brisbane. Abstract submission closes 21st March. We hope see you there.

Special Interest Sections:

- Building Public Health Evidence
- Advocacy Work

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OH SIG Committee Details 2011

We warmly welcome Jenny McKibben who is the new representative from Tasmania. Jenny is a Dental Therapist with many years of practical health promotion experience within disadvantaged rural communities. She has recently been appointed to the position of OHST's Health Promotion Coordinator and Community Educator.

State representatives of the OH SIG are:

NSW: Lexi Zander
 VIC: Julie Satur
 SA: Chis Morris
 WA: Linda Slack-Smith
 TAS: Jenny McKibben
 NT: Bruce Simmons
 ACT: Lynn Keyworth
 QLD: Leonie Short

Current Members 103

State Breakdown

QLD – 19
 NT - 4
 NSW – 20
 WA - 6
 VIC – 34
 SA - 11
 TAS – 2
 ACT - 7

What's happening at Oral Health Services Tasmania in 2011?



'2011 will bring the implementation of the 'Lift the Lip' program'



Jenny McKibben

The Health Promotion and Community Education Unit at Oral Health Services Tasmania (OHST), provides state wide support and advice for initiatives and promotions that raise an awareness of, and support, the messages of oral and general health.

2011 will bring the implementation of the 'Lift the Lip' program, an early intervention and prevention partnership with child health professionals, general health professionals and other groups working to improve the health and well being of our young children. OHST as part of this program will continue to work towards promoting an awareness of oral health and building capacity within established

settings and other broader partnerships within the community.

Staff enhancement training opportunities in motivational intervention and anticipatory guidance, understanding the social determinants barriers our clients face to access services and achieve positive oral and general health outcomes are all on the agenda to enhance and support staff and the Lift the Lip program. The utilisation of the Global Child Oral Health Taskforce Resources enables OHST to promote and support partnerships within the community by helping to build the capacity of these groups and creating opportunities for the promotion and advocacy of oral health in as many settings as possible. OHST utilises

and is appreciative of the Global Child Oral Health Task force Resources to promote and support community partnerships, build the capacity of groups, create opportunities for the promotion and advocacy of oral health and general health messages in a settings approach.

As a small state with limited resources OHST would like to thank all states, including, but not limited to, South Australia and New South Wales Oral Health Departments for their ongoing support and help, and the generous sharing of resources and intellectual property.

For further info on the Global Child Oral Health Taskforce visit:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/dentistry/research/gcdht/>

Policy practice research partnerships to develop programs, build evidence and improve oral health

The Australian Population Health Improvement Research Strategy for Oral Health (APHIRST-Oral Health), an initiative of Dental Health Services Victoria recently held a one day workshop *'Policy practice research partnerships to develop programs, build evidence and improve oral health'*. The workshop explored the current and emerging evidence, political context and funding opportunities for improving oral health.

The day was a huge success with over 60 participants attending, with a broad range of expertise including research, clinical practice, community development, policy, and health promotion. Participants came from across Victoria, along with representatives from Tasmania,

South Australia and the ACT to listen to a range of presentations and then debate ways to improve oral health at a population level.

A series of keynote presentation were given, firstly by international expert, Professor Laurence Moore (pictured left) providing insight into developing strategies to promote population health intervention research, using the experience of the Public Health Improvement Research Network (PHIRN) in Wales. The day then shifted to a local perspective when Dr. Colin Sindall, Senior Advisor at the Department of Health in Victoria provided an overview of prevention in Victoria and the context for oral health. Professor Elizabeth Waters, Director of the Jack Brockhoff Child

Health and Wellbeing program at the University of Melbourne then continued to develop the ideas of addressing oral health through solutions-focused research conducted in partnership between researchers, policy-makers, service providers and practitioners, with a focus on equity and sustainability.

The participants then contributed to informing the future direction of APHIRST-Oral Health through an interactive and stimulating 'think tank' session.

For more detail and presentations visit

<http://www.dhsv.org.au/research/aphirst-oral-health/>

South Australia Branch *Christine Morris*

In 2004, South Australia Dental Service underwent a major change when it became part of a health region and we lost our own board. We were placed in the Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS). This posed many challenges for us as a statewide service, with some pluses such as an increased exposure for oral health in general health. Then we formed Statewide Services under CNAHS combining dental with BreastScreen.

In 2010 we underwent further change with two metropolitan health regions combining to make Adelaide Health Service and adding Prison Health and Drug and Alcohol Services to the Statewide Services Directorate. All of this is occurring while shared services are introduced into the state and health reform is beginning with Local Hospital Networks at a Commonwealth level. Maintaining a profile for oral health in this environment, although challenging, keeps us focused on the business at hand and not on the "churn" that is going on around us. Martin Dooland is an exemplary leader in these circumstances as he tirelessly works

with others to promote oral health at both a State and Commonwealth level. With all of this it was wonderful to see the launch of the State Oral Health Plan in 2010 as well as the SA Health Aboriginal Health Plan that contained some targets for oral health.

Health promotion is moving along well in the dental service with continuation and expansion of the Children's Population Oral Health Program, smoking cessation, Aboriginal Liaison and Crunch and Sip a schools policy program. We are looking forward to the National Preventive Health Authority getting under way this year as well as the South Australian Primary Prevention Plan that will hopefully both give strength to the population oral health work that we conduct.

The Aboriginal Liaison Program has resulted in a large increase in the number of Aboriginal adults being treated in Community Dental Clinics. Almost 1,000 people received care in the second half of 2010 compared to

666 for the whole of 2009 and 400 in 2008. This program will continue to be expanded in 2011. The Children's Population Oral Health Program is expanding further into the Aboriginal preschool area this year with a greater focus on working with Aboriginal families. We are also working with Lisa Jamieson and her team who are evaluating intervention strategies for pregnant women offering dental care during pregnancy, motivational interviewing, and anticipatory guidance for mothers and fluoride varnish for the children for an intervention group and later for the comparison group.

Interest in our resources has been strong from interstate and overseas. Several requests have been made to use our *Give your child's teeth a healthystart* including recently from NZ. With a focus on pregnancy this year and promotion of preschool dental visits we have produced a couple of postcards to support the strategies that we are enacting.

Watch this space!

Hot Topics...

The '**Great Election Debate**' was held on the 24th of February 2011 - a joint venture between PHAA and Menzies Centre. Two oral health questions were asked. Both Minister Skinner and Minister David Shoebridge mentioned the need for a federally organized universal dental health insurance policy (denticare).

Parents duped by sports start endorsement & positive nutrition claims on junk food See the article: Parent's responses to nutrient claims and sports celebrity endorsements on energy-dense and nutrient-poor foods: an experiment study.
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=8066497>

Proposed HHS Recommendation for Fluoride Concentration in Drinking Water for Prevention of Dental Cares
http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/pre_pub_frn_fluoride.html

Junk food ads making kids sick
www.phaa.net.au

Advocacy

Action in NSW

Dr Alexis Zander wrote to the minister and Shadow Minister for health, asking their policies on oral health and urging them to put oral health on their agenda in the lead-up to the state election, with each Minister replying.

Don't forget to check out these websites

<http://www.oralhealth.asn.au/>

www.aushealthcare.com.au/

For Newsletter Membership or Contributions

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Some Recent Publications of Interest

Early childhood feeding practices and dental caries in preschool children: a multi-centre birth cohort study. *BMC Public Health* (2011), 11:28. Amit Arora, Jane A Scott, Sameer Bhole, Loc Do, Eli Schwarz and Anthony S Blinkhorn.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/11/28>

Impact of an oral health intervention on pre-school children <3 years of age in a rural setting in Australia. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* (2011) Feb. Neumann AS, Lee KJ, Gussy MG, Waters EB, Carlin JB, Riggs E, Kilpatrick NM.

Incidence and prevention of early childhood caries in one- and two- parent families. *Child: care, health and development* (2011) Jan;37(1):5-10. Plutzer K, Keirse MJ.

Validity of dental screening questions in an Indigenous young adult population. *Australian New Zealand Journal of Public Health* (2011) Feb;35(1):87-8. Jamieson L, Kapellas K, Roberts-Thomson K, Sayers S.

Visit the National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse for more current research activity <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/oral-health-promotion/publications/journal/>

Upcoming events & conferences



PHAA 41st Annual Conference

Sustainable Population Health

26 - 28 September 2011, Brisbane Convention Centre, Brisbane

PHAA ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CLOSES – 21 March 2011

<http://www.phaa.net.au/41stPHAAAnnualConference.php>

This month is the **11th National Rural Health Conference** to be held in Perth 13 – 16 March, 2011. The conference theme is 'rural and remote Australia: the heart of a healthy nation'. The oral health stream will showcase the following presentations:

Incorporating oral health into primary health care – a promotional partnership

Tarja Martin & Judith Townsend-Stahre.

The not so good, the bad, and the quite ugly: an oral health policy vacuum in rural and remote Australia

Bruce Simmons

Parent perceptions – oral health for rural children with intellectual disability

Linda-Slack-Smith

Not just house-keeping: oral health and the Federal policy vacuum

Dr Tessa Boyde-Caine, Senior Policy Officer, Australian Council of Social Service



Perth, Western Australia

Evidence Informed Public Health Short Course

When: Tue 5th – Wed 6th April, 2011

Where: VicHealth seminar room
15-31 Pelham St, Carlton, Vic.

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm each day

Cost: \$550

For further information and to register visit:

<http://ph.cochrane.org/>

Looking internationally we have Australian representatives at the IADR general session to be held in San Diego, California, March 16-19, 2011:

Measuring Socioeconomic Inequality in Oral Health: Population Oral Health Perspective and Methodological and Practical Oral Health Considerations

Loc Giang Do, The University of Adelaide.

Policy Priorities to Track Oral Health

John Spencer, The University of Adelaide.