

# HIV & HCV EDUCATION PROJECTS

Newsletter No 12 – July 2008

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## NEW STUFF

### Update on the Progress of the Queensland Positive Speakers Bureau (QPSB)

As noted in the last newsletter, the development of the new QPSB – for speakers living with HIV and / or hepatitis C – is being overseen by a management committee comprising representatives from Queensland Positive People (QPP); Hepatitis Council of Queensland (HCQ); Ethnic Community Council of Queensland (ECCQ); and is being chaired by the HIV & HCV Education Projects. The QPSB currently sits within QPP.

The aim of the QPSB is to empower individuals living with HCV and/or HIV to educate the wider community about the realities of living with HIV and/or HCV. By doing so, the QPSB also aims to break down barriers and reduce stigma and discrimination about HIV & HCV.

Although still in its infancy, the QPSB is now operational with more training for speakers expected soon. For more information, to secure training places, and to find out the process and cost of securing speakers contact and of the agencies listed above, including Steve Lambert, please contact Steve on 07 3365 5045 or [s.lambert@uq.edu.au](mailto:s.lambert@uq.edu.au).

### HIV & Mental Health Seminar

In response to a very successful seminar in 2007, the HIV & HCV Education Projects will again be staging the HIV & Mental Health Seminar on Friday 05 September 2008 in Brisbane. This is a full one day seminar aimed at professionals currently working in the HIV sector looking to upskill in Mental Health. This year a breakfast meeting with a leading Neurologist will also be arranged for those unable to attend the full day seminar but still interested in this aspect of mental health.

The exact content is currently being decided by the steering team. Your thoughts on the content of this year's seminar are sought. Please email [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au) or add some notes to the faxback page.

For further information or to express interest in attending please visit our website at [www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects](http://www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects) or email Jean Martin on [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au).

## MORE NEW STUFF

### HIV & HCV Testing Policies

A new project has been funded by Queensland Health to educate about and promote the recently released National HIV Testing Policy and the National HCV Testing Policy. These documents contain updated information on all aspects of testing and can be downloaded directly from links on the unit's website.

A component of this new project will be to stage dedicated training sessions on the policies in each of the three Health Service Districts in the next financial year (locations and dates yet to be set). To express interest please use the faxback page.

### Review of HIV Courses

Through the 2008 – 2009 financial year an independent review of the content and structure of the courses offered in HIV will be undertaken. This review will have a specific focus on the training of community based HIV prescribers. For more information and to provide input into this review, please contact Mr Dale Symons on 07 3365 5026 or [d.symons1@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.symons1@uq.edu.au)

### Advanced Education in HCV for Drug and Alcohol Workers

The HIV & HCV Education Projects has partnered with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) to design and deliver a course examining advanced issues in HCV management and treatment for Drug and Alcohol workers. This is part of the 'Enhancing Treatment for Hepatitis C in Opioid Substitution Settings' (ETHOS) Project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The development of this new course is in its infancy and more information will be available in the second half of 2008. If you work in the Drug and Alcohol setting, and would like to register your interest in attending this training, please tick the appropriate box on the faxback form or email Jean Martin on [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au).

### Purchase Our Services

Does your organisation need customised workplace clinical training in the areas of HIV, Hepatitis and Sexual Health? Due to changed funding mechanisms we are now able to offer assistance on a 'fee for service' basis. We are also able to assist in **Facilitation, Resourcing and Monitoring & Evaluation** for your next training session. To obtain a copy of our newly developed prospectus, please phone Jean Martin on 07 3346 4749 or email [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au).

## Up Coming Courses in 2008

### July - December 2008

Course	Date	Location
HIV & Wellness	<b>19 Jul</b>	Cleveland
Motivational Interviewing for HIV ART Prescribers	<b>26 Jul</b>	Brisbane
Hepatitis C Management Course for General Practitioners	<b>02 Aug</b>	Brisbane
Hepatitis C Management Course for Health Care Workers	<b>06 Aug</b>	Brisbane
Advanced HIV Nursing Practice Course	<b>30 &amp; 31 Aug</b>	Brisbane
HIV & Mental Health Seminar	<b>05 Sep</b>	Brisbane
Update on Contemporary HIV and Sexual Health Issues for Nurses	<b>25 Oct</b>	Brisbane
Education Course in HIV Medicine - 08 & 09 Nov 2008	<b>8 &amp; 9 Nov</b>	Bundaberg
Hepatitis C Management Course for Health Care Workers	<b>TBC</b>	Cunnamulla
Hepatitis C Management Course for ATODs Staff	<b>TBS</b>	Brisbane

For further information on any of these up coming courses and conferences please visit us at [www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects](http://www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects), email [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au) or use our fax back sheet.

### HIV and Sexual Health to be included in the UQ MBBS Program

The University of Queensland (UQ) conducts a four year graduate entry medical program, the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) that is designed to produce doctors able to meet the challenges of the new century. The curriculum has been planned to capture the enthusiasm and maturity of its graduate entrants and help them develop into highly skilled medical graduates capable of entering the wide variety of career options open to them. Currently work is being undertaken to update the curriculum for 2009 and the HIV & HCV Education Projects have been involved in discussions to include lectures on HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health. These are to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 4 year program.

## New Chairperson for the Viral Hepatitis Education Program Advisory Committee

After 5 years as chair of the various committees that have overseen work in hepatitis by the team at the HIV & HCV Education Projects, Associate Professor Graeme Macdonald has handed the reins to Dr Johannes Wittmann. Graeme has been involved with the work of the School of Medicine in hepatitis since the HCV project's inception prior to 1997 and became chair of the then 'Hepatitis C Management Committee' at the beginning of 2003. Even though Graeme will continue to be strongly involved with the work of the team, sincere thanks are expressed for his long term commitment and his, very much appreciated, guiding hands. Johannes officially assumed the role of chair at the committee meeting of 26 March 2008 and thanks are also expressed to Johannes for agreeing to this involvement.

## HCV Treatment Community Prescribing Discussions

In the last financial year, the HIV & HCV Education Projects secured funding from Queensland Health to examine the needs and parameters of HCV treatment community prescribing in Queensland. The Viral Hepatitis Education Program Advisory Committee (VHEPAC) has taken carriage of this task and recommendations on proposed processes will be made to Queensland Health in the second half of 2008. One component of this work has been to survey General Practitioners across the state. A short eight question survey was sent to all GPs and 580 responses received. These are currently being utilised for discussion by VHEPAC.

## Viral Hepatitis Conference & Australian Gastroenterology Week

The **2008 conference** will be in Brisbane at the Convention & Exhibition Centre, Southbank on **Monday 20 October to Wednesday 22 October** and is being held back-to-back with the Australian Gastroenterology week. View [www.agw2008.com](http://www.agw2008.com) for further information on this conference.

The theme of the conference is Hepatitis B & C at the Crossroads. The conference will aim to cover the key issues of regulations versus accepted practice, tensions around policy and practice in the harm reduction field and the need for a National Hepatitis B Strategy. The program will include research work of the Principal Investigators of the Australian Centre for Hepatitis Virology, a joint plenary day with the Australian Liver Association to be built around a case study and 'think tank' sessions reviewing access issues for priority populations.

For further information on the Viral Hepatitis Conference please visit [www.hepatitis.org.au](http://www.hepatitis.org.au).

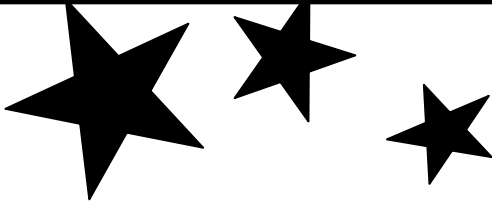
# So Far in 2008...



## Education on Thursday Island

In May 2008 the team at the HIV & HCV Education Projects again staged a very successful three day education workshop on HIV and Sexual Health on Thursday Island. This followed another very successful course conducted at a similar time in 2007. Twenty-four participants attended and evaluation highlighted that much was learnt and many networks developed.

We would like to thank all the presenters involved for their generous support and efforts both leading up to and at the course.



## Deadly Sex

The HIV & HCV Education Projects, was contracted by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Queensland Health and the Deadly Sex Congress Committee to organise, facilitate and evaluate three days of education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health Workers from across Queensland. This was staged in March 08.

The brief given by the Deadly Sex Congress Committee was to provide education that was clinical and practical in nature while catering to a diverse audience. The content of the three days covered sexual health, hepatitis A, B & C, HIV and research skills and the evaluation of the congress showed that participants increased their knowledge and skill and appreciated the level of organisation undertaken to make the congress a success.

As in previous years, this was again an enjoyable and productive Deadly Sex Congress with links made from all over Queensland. The HIV & HCV Education Projects looks forward to a continued relationship with the Deadly Sex Congress.

## Facilitation

The HIV & HCV Education Projects has developed a strong reputation in effective outcome – focussed facilitation. In 2008, members of the team have facilitated events across the state on a ‘fee for service’ basis including:

- Facilitation of the two day Child Protection Liaison Officer workshop for - 60 participants
- Facilitation of the two day Fatigue Management Seminar - 90 participants
- Facilitation of the one day Patient Safety Workshop - 300 participants.

If your organisation requires outside outcome-focussed facilitation for any event please contact any members of the HIV & HCV Education Projects.

# So Far in 2008...

## Hepatitis B & C Courses - Malaysia



In late 2007 HIV & HCV Education Projects was approached by Schering-Plough Malaysia and the Malaysian Liver Foundation to stage two courses in Penang and Selangor in June 2008 for Nurses and Pharmacists. This approach was made after a web search for appropriate service providers and discussion with their Australian colleagues.

The specialist nurse presenter from Queensland was Ms Peta Deppeler (Toowoomba Liver Clinic). Peta presented on Transmission and Prevention, Non-Pharmacological Treatment, Tools to Make the Job Easier and Shared Care, as well as facilitating case study sessions.

Five specialist nurses from across Queensland expressed interest in assisting with these courses and, after reviewing all Expressions Of Interest, organisers in Malaysia applauded the depth of expertise present in Queensland.

The courses were a successful pilot project for the organisers and attendees with generous feedback and support received.

The HIV & HCV Education Project would like to acknowledge the organisers for engaging us in their education and we look forward to a maintaining our new relationships in Malaysia.

## A Very Successful Meeting of Sexual Health Clinicians

The end of May saw the staging of this year's 'Meeting of Sexual Health Clinicians' and again the team at the HIV & HCV Education Projects were tasked with organising, facilitating and evaluating the event. Sixty participants attended this year with representation from all Sexual Health and Family Planning Clinics across the state.

Thank you to Brad Reuter who took the lead in organising this event for the first time. For copies of the evaluation or information about decisions made at the meeting email [b.reuter@uq.edu.au](mailto:b.reuter@uq.edu.au).

## Motivational Interviewing

Queensland Health has funded the HIV & HCV Education Projects to stage three more Motivational Interviewing courses in 2008. Two of these have now been conducted (in Brisbane and in Cairns) with much success. A third, for community based HIV prescribers is to be staged in the second half of 2008. Contact Dale Symons on [d.symons1@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.symons1@uq.edu.au) or 07 3365 5026 for more information.



## Calling for Expressions of Interest - *Introductory Workshop on HIV & International Work*

The HIV & HCV Education Projects are currently seeking expressions of interest in the *Introductory Workshop on HIV & International Work* (previously titled the *Workshop on HIV & Overseas Work*). If you have ever considered working or spending time abroad in a developing country this is the course for you. Through successful partnership with a number of the major health development organisations the HIV & HCV Education Projects have now staged four of these workshops. For further details or to express interest please contact Mr Dale Symons on 07 3365 5026 - [d.symons1@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.symons1@uq.edu.au) or Ms Jean Martin on 07 3346 4749 - [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au)

### Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

In the first half of 2008, the HIV & HCV Education Projects in collaboration with Family Planning Queensland designed and conducted a survey on sexual and reproductive health for General Practitioners. This survey was sent to all GPs in the state through the Medical Board of Queensland and was designed to identify education needs as well as assess knowledge in SRH. At the time of writing this newsletter over 950 responses had been received providing a wealth of significant information. This will first be presented at the forthcoming Sexual Health Conference in Perth in September 2008.

Additionally, as part of this mailout, all GPs received information on training in sexual health. This led to a capping of 60 places at the training conducted in June (usually limited to 30 GPs) with over 70 GPs on a waiting list for the next available training.

### Website Update

The website of the unit is continually updated as a result of the unit having a resident IT specialist – Brad Reuter. Check out the website for latest courses, information, PowerPoints and evaluations from previous activities, as well as links to other sites that offer education and training.



## CONFERENCES IN 2008

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ASHM and the Australasian Sexual Health Conference, 15 - 20 September

The 2008 Australasian Sexual Health Conference will be held at the Perth Convention Centre, Western Australia on Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 September 2008. The conference will be held back-to-back with the 20th Annual ASHM Conference to be held on 17 - 20 September 2008, also at the Perth Convention Centre in Western Australia.

Some of the proposed presentations include:

- HPV/STIs/HIV
- Syphilis
- Chlamydia
- Public Health
- Vulvodynia

Also being held is the Annual ASHM conference which is being supported by Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Department of Health, Government of Western Australia

And collaborating bodies include

Australian Centre in HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH2)

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS)

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR)

National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR)

For further information on both these conference please visit [www.sexualhealthconference.com.au](http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au) and / or [www.ashm.org.au/ashm08/](http://www.ashm.org.au/ashm08/) or email [conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au](mailto:conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au) and / or [info@sexualhealthconference.com.au](mailto:info@sexualhealthconference.com.au).

## And Lastly...

### Monitoring and Evaluation

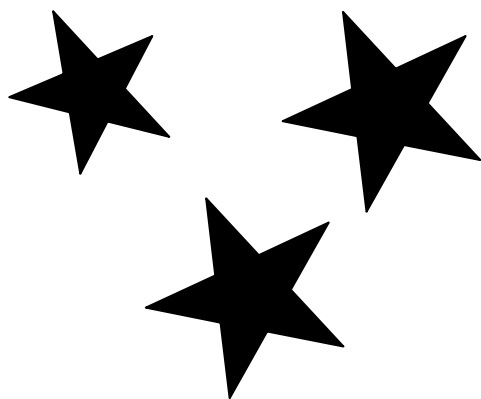
In addition to facilitation, members of the team have also developed expertise in monitoring and evaluation through the work of the unit. Recent examples have been the inclusion of team members on the evaluation teams for the UNFPA funded project, Y-PEER, that operates in 38 Eastern European and North African countries and the AusAID funded project, Sanap Wantaim that operates in PNG. If your organisation desires assistance with monitoring and evaluation, please contact any members of the HIV & HCV Education Projects.

#### A change of Address

If you have recently changed or are about to change your contact details please use our fax sheet or email Jean Martin on [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au) to let us know. This will ensure that we continue to keep you updated on the latest courses being offered and information regarding the unit. Please also use the fax back sheet or email to indicate whether you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.



The HIV & HCV Education Projects is continuing to strive for a greener change. We are still hoping to reduce the amount of hard copy mailing of our newsletter. If you are currently receiving your newsletter by hard copy and would like to nominate for the electronic version please contact Jean Martin on [j.martin3@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.martin3@uq.edu.au).



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**Education Projects  
The University of Queensland**



**Queensland  
Government**  

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**Queensland Health**

[www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects](http://www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects)



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