

Tuesday 8 November 2011 - Issue 18-11/12

LODDON MALLEE MURRAY MEDICARE LOCAL TO COMMENCE FROM 1 JANUARY 2012!!

The Federal Government announced on Friday 4 November that the Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local has been approved to commence operation from 1 January 2012 as one of the 18 Round Two Medicare Locals. From a Division of General Practice viewpoint this decision is a very successful outcome that recognizes our region's ability to undertake the work necessary to establish this new entity in the next phase of Medicare Local implementation.

Murray-Plains Division of General Practice and Central Victoria General Practice Network have led the collaborative efforts to establish a regional consortium application. That application has been approved through an assessment process to be amongst the next 18 Medicare Locals from the remaining 43 Medicare Local regions nationally.

This decision provides many things – confirmation of the historical effectiveness of the two Divisions of General Practice, recognition of the hard work and time required to compile a successful application and a significant body of work in a short period of time to establish and transfer existing responsibilities and capabilities to the Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local.

We look forward to keeping you apprised of further developments as they emerge over the next few weeks and appreciate your interest in this important change for your organisation.

Please find attached the press release issued on Friday 4 November by Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon announcing the outcomes of the second Medicare Local application process in July 2011. The remaining 25 Medicare Locals will commence operations from 1 July 2012.

ENROLMENT FOR RACGP EXAMINATIONS FOR 2012 CLOSES FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2011

The next enrolment period, for 2012.1 and 2012.2 exams, commenced 19 September 2011 and closes at 5pm AEDT on Friday 11 November 2011. Visit the [RACGP website](#) for more information.

NSW HEALTH, TRANSPORT FOR HEALTH - ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME (IPTAAS) MEDIA RELEASE

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner announced on 22 September 2011 that there would be a \$28 million boost to the Isolated Patients Travel & Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS). Greater funding for IPTAAS will allow more patients to travel for medical treatment & reimburse their expenses at a fairer rate (from 1 January 2012).

- Patients travelling > 200 kms in 1 week can claim IPTAAS subsidies.
- Reimbursement of 19 cents/km.
- \$140/week for patients to stay when receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Effective from 1 January 2012.
- Particular benefits for patients needing to travel regularly for specialist treatment.

If you would like copies of the new application forms for your Practice please contact Fiona McEniry fmceniry@mpdgp.com.au or ph 54811300

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NATIONAL RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Health providers across rural and remote Australia are now being encouraged to submit applications to the next \$9 million round of grants under the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program. Applications close on 15 December 2011.

<http://www.health.gov.au/nrrhip>

NEW HEART FOUNDATION WARNING SIGNS DVD- NOW AVAILABLE!

As part of the Heart Foundation's *Warning Signs of Heart Attack* Program we have developed a short DVD to support the education of patients on the warning signs of heart attack. Narrated by cardiologist, Professor Ian Meredith, the captioned 6-7 minute DVD uses two scenarios to visually demonstrate the varying warning signs of heart attack and what to do. It also includes information on:

- What a heart attack is
- Why it's important to act quickly and call Triple Zero (000)
- Simple steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of having a heart attack.

So if you have a DVD player and TV in your practice and want to show something that could literally save your patient's life, order your free copy today.

View the DVD and order a free copy:

View the DVD (general population version) online at: www.heartattackfacts.org.au
Order a free hard copy or a heart attack action plan (fridge magnet and wallet card) and fact sheet to support your education activities, by contacting our Health Information Service on 1300 36 27 87 or email health@heartfoundation.org.au.

THE NSW CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM'S PEACE OF MIND CAMPAIGN

The NSW Cervical Screening Program's *Peace of Mind* will run from October 30th to end of November 2011 to raise awareness and increase the number of women having two yearly Pap tests. A poster and brochure will soon be available on the NSW Cervical Screening Program website www.csp.nsw.gov.au

AIHW / NRHA ART COMPETITION

Do you live in rural Australia? Do you like to paint? Would you like your artwork to appear on the cover of Australia's health 2012?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, in partnership with the National Rural Health Alliance, is conducting an art competition to source cover art for AIHW's publications. The theme for the artwork is the health and wellbeing of Australians.

Eligible entrants are people living in rural, regional and remote Australia. Four prizes of \$1,000, \$500, \$300 and \$200 are offered for winning artists. Entries close 5.00pm (EDST) Friday 6 January 2012. Full details and application form available on the Alliance website:

www.ruralhealth.org.au



DID YOU KNOW???

- New cases of Chlamydia rose by 17% last year to 74,305.



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

4 November 2011

38 Organisations Named to Drive Primary Health Care Reform

Thirty-eight organisations have been selected to become the next Medicare Locals that will drive access to better primary health care for Australian families, Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said today.

“Medicare Locals are the glue that will bring together doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals to work with consumers to provide better frontline primary health services for their local communities,” Minister Roxon said.

“There are already 19 Medicare Locals operating around the country, which are working to better plan and coordinate local health services. These 38 new organisations will soon follow in their footsteps.

“In addition to identifying gaps in local health services, Medicare Locals will help patients to navigate the health system to find the right services at the right time and place, better connecting and improving local services.

“In particular, patients with chronic conditions will benefit from chronic disease prevention and management programs and mental health initiatives.

“Importantly, Medicare Locals will maintain and build on the excellent work already done by the local Divisions of General Practice, with GPs and general practice being at the centre of a strong, integrated primary health care system,” she said.

Across Australia, each Medicare Local will tailor its solutions to the needs of their local community. For example, the North Coast NSW Medicare Local will establish a regional low intensity mental health service called “StressLess” to improve access to mental health care. The Bayside Medicare Local in Victoria will expand the successful after hours clinics to other locations within the catchment, while the Fremantle Medicare Local in WA will establish an Aboriginal Health Priority Area Advisory Group and develop an Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre as a focus for Aboriginal Health Programs.

Eighteen Medicare Locals will be established from 1 January 2012, with the remaining 25 (20 of which have been announced today) to commence from 1 July 2012.

Once all the new Medicare Locals are established there will be a network of 62 nationally to ensure that patients receive locally responsive primary health care.

While applications have been received for the establishment of Medicare Locals in the catchments of North Eastern Sydney and Hunter Rural in New South Wales, Great South Coast and South Western Melbourne in Victoria and Kimberley-Pilbara in Western Australia, further work will be undertaken by the Department of Health and Ageing with those applicants to confirm the arrangements for these Medicare Locals. Announcements on the organisations that will form each of those Medicare Locals will be made once this work has been completed.

The boundaries of each Medicare Local can be viewed at www.yourhealth.gov.au

For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220

Attachment B

Medicare Locals to Commence from January 2012

Medicare Local	Applicant	State/Territory
Illawarra-Shoalhaven	Illawarra Division of General Practice	NSW
Nepean-Blue Mountains	Nepean Division of General Practice	NSW
North Coast NSW	Northern Rivers General Practice Network	NSW
Northern Sydney	GP Network Northside (Hornsby Kuring-gai Ryde Division of General Practice)	NSW
Western NSW	Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice	NSW
Bayside	Southcity GP Services	Victoria
Frankston-Mornington Peninsula	Peninsula GP Network	Victoria
Loddon-Mallee-Murray	Murray Plains Division of General Practice	Victoria
Lower Murray	Mallee Health Care Network	Victoria
Macedon Ranges and North Western Melbourne	PivotWest	Victoria
South Eastern Melbourne	Dandenong Casey GP Association	Victoria
Central and North West Queensland	North and West Queensland Primary Health Care	Queensland
Darling Downs – South West Queensland	GP Connections (Toowoomba and District Division of General Practice)	Queensland
Northern Adelaide	Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice	South Australia
Southern Adelaide – Fleurieu	GP Network South	South Australia
Fremantle	Fremantle General Practice Network	Western Australia
Goldfields-Midwest	Greater WA Health Partnership	Western Australia
Rockingham-Kwinana-Peel	Rockingham Kwinana Division of General Practice	Western Australia

Attachment B**Medicare Locals to Commence from July 2012**

Medicare Local	Applicant	State/Territory
Central Coast NSW	Central Coast Division of General Practice	NSW
Eastern Sydney	South Eastern Sydney Division of General Practice	NSW
Far West NSW	NSW Outback Division of General Practice	NSW
Inner West Sydney	Central Sydney GP Network	NSW
South Eastern Sydney	Sutherland Division of General Practice	NSW
Southern NSW	Southern GP Network	NSW
South Western Sydney	Sydney South West GP Link and Southern Highlands Division of General Practice	NSW
Eastern Melbourne	Eastern Ranges GP Association	Victoria
Gippsland	East Gippsland Primary Health Alliance, Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice, and General Practice Alliance South Gippsland	Victoria
Goulburn Valley	Goulburn Valley Division of General Practice	Victoria
Grampians	West Vic Division of General Practice	Victoria
Hume	Albury-Wodonga Regional GP Network	Victoria
Central Queensland	CQ Medicare Local	Queensland
Far North Queensland	Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice	Queensland
Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice	Queensland
Wide Bay	GP Links Wide Bay	Queensland
Country South SA	Murray Mallee General Practice Network	South Australia
Bentley-Armadale	Canning Division of General Practice	Western Australia
Perth Central and East Metro	Perth Primary Care Network	Western Australia
Northern Territory	General Practice Network NT, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT and NT Government Department of Health	Northern Territory

Attachment C

Medicare Locals where Applicants and Department of Health and Ageing are Confirming Arrangements

Medicare Local	State/Territory
Hunter Rural	NSW
North Eastern Sydney	NSW
Great South Coast	Victoria
South Western Melbourne	Victoria
Kimberley-Pilbara	Western Australia