

SDOHA

NEWS

30 April 2015

Items for Circulation from Members

2015 SDOHA Public Forum and Member Meeting dates

Please pencil in the remaining dates for the SDOHA Member Meetings and Public Forums in 2015:

- Thursday 7 May – Brassey House, Canberra
Public Forum, 9:30am – 12:30pm: “Achieving health equity through action on social determinants: challenges and opportunities in Australian health policy” to be followed by a light lunch, Members Meeting and Management Committee Meeting. Click [here](#) for further information. **Please note that RSVPs for this event have now closed.**
- Thursday 13 August – (SDOHA AGM – other details TBA)
- Thursday 15 October – Anti Poverty Week Address (Public Forum) – date and venue TBA

2nd National Complex Needs Conference – abstract submission & registration site now open

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) - in conjunction with the National Complex Needs Alliance (NCNA) - invites you to participate in the second Australian conference to showcase successful programs/approaches in addressing complex needs - with the broader purpose of identifying what works and how. The Second National Complex Needs Conference is being held in Canberra on 17-18 November 2015. The abstract submission and conference registration site is now live. Abstract submission closes on Friday 12 June 2015. Click [here](#) for link. **Please also circulate this info throughout your networks.**

Membership of SDOHA

Full membership is open to organisations that agree with the Alliance's purpose and principles; abide by the Alliance's terms of reference; and consistently and regularly attend Alliance meetings. Individuals can also be listed on the SDOHA website as supporters of the Alliance. Further information is available on the “Who We Are” page of the website at www.socialdeterminants.org.au .

Invitation to contribute to the SDOHA Blog

We are seeking Blog posts – to be published on the website - from member organisations, either commenting on key issues/current events or showcasing work that your organisation is undertaking in relation to the social determinants of health. Please forward Blog posts to Anne Brown, SDOHA Coordinator at accounts@phaa.net.au .

News Items of Interest

Media items of interest over the past week included:

29 April 2015

Cuba wins the cigar for public health commitment (City News)

“Cuba claims a 100 per cent child-vaccination rate – a gold medal in world terms. Although Australia is doing quite well, matching this achievement would be a challenge in our community,” writes political columnist Michael Moore. SDOHA Chair Michael Moore is also a weekly political and social columnist for City News in Canberra. Click [here](#) for article.

27 April 2015

New meds don't reduce self-harm (MJAInSight)

A mental health expert has questioned the rising rate of antidepressant prescribing in Australia and called for a more rigorous system of patient follow-up, after a study revealed that the prevalence of self-poisoning has not changed in 26 years. Click [here](#) for full article.

Our \$3b-a-year system is flying blind in supporting ex-prisoners (The Conversation)

Nobody knows how many people get out of prison in Australia each year. This fact is so striking that it bears repetition. Despite recurring investment of more than \$3 billion a year in our correctional systems, we simply cannot determine how many people move through those systems each year. Click [here](#) for full article.

24 April 2015

Putting policy on track for better health (InDaily)

A new Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) on the Social Determinants of Health Equity launched at Flinders University on 24 April is dedicated to achieving fairer health outcomes and improving the wellbeing of Australians. Professor Fran Baum: the Centre will "encourage policy-makers to make positive contributions to the conditions in which Australians live and the opportunities they have to lead a healthy life". Click [here](#) for full article.

23 April 2015

It's time to tackle the social inequalities that are keeping millions of Australians sick (Canberra Times)

For a country that prides itself on a fair go, Australia is almost fatally sick. Today, millions of people's lives are worsened or unnecessarily shortened by what experts call the social determinants of health inequity: dirty politics, unfair economic arrangements and poor public policies, writes Professor Sharon Friel. Click [here](#) for full article.

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