Welcome to the June edition of the CNMO newsletter. It is hard to believe we are already midway through 2016! You may be aware that on 9 May 2016, the Government assumed a Caretaker role, with an election to be held on 2 July 2016. For further information on the Caretaker period, please view the Guidance on Caretaker Conventions, published by the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In other news, I have recently returned to Canberra after attending a number of nursing and midwifery meetings in Geneva, as well as attending the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organisation (WHO) made up of representatives from the WHO’s 194 Member States. It was a very productive, successful and busy few weeks! Australia facilitated some historic decisions, including establishing a new WHO Health Emergencies Programme, with a budget of US$160m for the 2016-2017 biennium, to enable WHO to more effectively respond to infectious disease outbreaks and other health emergencies. We also endorsed the first ever Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Healthy Ageing. Later in the newsletter, you will see a number of links to further information about these meetings.

I look forward to working with you over the next half of 2016.

Until next month,

Debra

National Cancer Screening Register

Following a competitive tender process that commenced on 10 August last year, the Department of Health has appointed Telstra Health to develop and operate the new National Cancer Screening Register (the Register), which will support the renewed National Cervical Screening Program and the expansion of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

The commitment to establish a national cancer screening register was first announced in the 2015-16 Budget. Following a detailed Request for Tender (RFT) process, a contract for the service provider was signed on the 4th May 2016.

The Department of Health will now work with Telstra Health to implement the Register. There will also be significant collaboration with the Department of Human Services and the state and territory governments to transition nine separate cancer screening registers into a single National Cancer Screening Register. The Register is expected to be operational to align with the commencement of the renewed National Cervical Screening Program on 1 May 2017.

The Register will create a single view for Australians participating in cervical and bowel cancer screening, meaning for the first time: one record for each participant.

By integrating the Register with GPs’ desktops, GPs will be able to identify patients’ screening eligibility and history to support real time clinical decision-making. Health professionals, including pathology providers, will have improved access to their patients’ information.

Don’t Make Smokes Your Story - National Tobacco Campaign

The Government has recently launched the latest phase of the National Tobacco Campaign as it aims to Close the Gap in smoking rates. The Don’t Make Smokes Your Story campaign features new advertising material that focusses on the values within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, such as the health and wellbeing of their families. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 15 are 2.8 times more likely than other Australians to be daily smokers, and it is estimated that smoking accounts for one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths. Don’t Make Smokes Your Story is the most recent phase of the Government’s sustained and multi-faceted approach to reducing smoking rates over the past several decades—an ongoing initiative that has resulted in a substantial decline in national smoking rates. For further information, please visit the campaign website.

Current consultations

As noted, the Government has entered a caretaker period. Policy decisions that bind a future Government will not be made during this period. However, the Department is proceeding to consult during this period so that if the incoming Government agrees to the proposed approach, implementation can occur as soon as possible.
The following two consultations are currently open:

- Increasing Choice in Home Care – Stage 1 – Proposed changes to delegated legislation (closes 9 June 2016)
- National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions: Online Public Consultation on the second draft (closes 22 June 2016)

For further information, please visit the Department of Health’s consultation hub.

Geneva – documents of interest and further information on various meetings

1. Global Forum for Government CNMOs meeting – Communique and Global Strategic Directions for Nursing & Midwifery
2. Triad Communique
3. World Health Organisation Global Strategy for Human Resources for Health
4. World Health Assembly (WHA) information
5. Global strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health

Publications


CATSINaM Cultural Safety Training Workshop – 26 & 27 July 2016

The next Cultural Safety Training Workshop is scheduled for 26 – 27 July 2016 in Canberra at Majura Park. It will be facilitated by Sharon Gollan and Kathleen Stacey, both of whom have extensive experience developing and delivering cultural respect and safety training. Please express your (and other colleagues’) interest in attending by contacting Colleen Gibbs at policy@catsinam.org.au or by phoning 02 6262 5761 by 16 June 2016.

Mailbox

If you have any feedback or would like to contact the Office of the Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, please email the new, central CNMO mailbox.