



4 April 2010

APHA Office Closed for Easter Weekend

The APHA Secretariat office will be closed for the Easter weekend and will re-open for business as usual on Tuesday 6 April at 8.30am.

APHA Member Forum Presentation

Staff from the APHA Secretariat travelled around the country for the past three weeks presenting member forums to more than 100 hospitals. The response to the new Valuing Private Hospitals Campaign was overwhelmingly positive. If you were not able to attend one of the forums and would like to see the presentation or if you would like to use the presentation at your own hospital, it is available for download on the members area of the APHA website at:

<http://www.apha.org.au/members/2010-member-forum/>

You will need your email address and member login password to access the presentation. If you have difficulties logging in, please contact Marie McCoy at info@apha.org.au for new log in details.

Clinical Training Grant for St Andrew's Hospital

The Minister for Health and Ageing has announced the outcome of the Clinical Training Capacity grants for South Australia (announcements for grant awards in other states are expected soon). Of note the University of Adelaide and APHA member St Andrew's Hospital will receive a grant of \$370,000 for the refurbishment of facilities and equipment to provide placements for undergraduate health professional training. This will result in approximately 35 additional placements for medical and nursing entry level students.

PHIO releases *State of the Health Funds* report

The Private Health Insurance Ombudsman released the *State of the Health Funds* report this week. The report can be downloaded from www.phio.org.au.

ABS releases report on the causes of death in Australia for the 10 years to 2008

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released a report on the causes of death since 1999. This is the most up to date and comprehensive report available.

The proportion of Australian death from heart disease has decreased over the last ten years, In 1999, 22% of all deaths in Australia were due to heart disease, compared to 16% of all deaths in 2008. Despite this decline, however, heart disease remained the biggest killer in Australia.

Over the same period, deaths due to dementia and Alzheimer's disease more than doubled. The continued increase in deaths from Dementia and Alzheimer's disease has seen this cause of death overtake Trachea and lung cancers as the third leading cause of death in Australia.

Trachea and lung cancers were responsible for most deaths caused by cancer, and was the fourth leading cause of death overall.

For all Australians, there were 2,191 deaths due to suicide in 2008. Males accounted for over three-quarters of all Suicide deaths in 2008, resulting in a ranking as the tenth leading cause of death of males, and the fourteenth overall leading cause of death

The ABS Media Release, which has a link to the full Report, may be downloaded at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/latestProducts/3303.0Media%20Release12008>

New resources developed by National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre

A number of new resources have been developed by the NBOCC.

Ovarian cancer statistics

On Teal Ribbon Day (24 February), National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) launched the latest statistical report on ovarian cancer in Australia, developed in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Ovarian cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010*, provides a comprehensive nationwide snapshot of ovarian cancer, including the latest data on incidence, mortality, survival and prevalence. The report not only builds on previous monitoring reports but additionally provides data about the burden of disease due to ovarian cancer, as well as survival from ovarian cancer by Indigenous status and by histology types. The data provides insight into areas of significant gain over time and provides health professionals and health service providers with evidence-based information to inform future planning for services and patient needs.

Ovarian cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010 is available to download at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11158>

Report to the Nation: Ovarian Cancer 2010

To coincide with the release of the latest statistical report, NBOCC has also published a *Report to the Nation: Ovarian cancer 2010*, which provides a comprehensive picture of current knowledge about ovarian cancer. The report brings together in one user-friendly online document: an overview of key ovarian cancer statistics, an update on current research in ovarian cancer, information about risk factors for ovarian cancer, and also dispels some common ovarian cancer myths. To download the *Report to the Nation: Ovarian Cancer 2010*, go to <http://nbocc.org.au/view-document-details/ocnr-report-to-the-nation-ovarian-cancer-2010>.

New online tool assesses family history of breast and ovarian cancer

NBOCC has developed a new online tool to assist general practitioners and other health professionals in assessing a woman's risk of ovarian or breast cancer based on family history. The *Familial Risk Assessment - Breast and Ovarian Cancer* tool will assist health professionals in identifying women who should be referred to a family cancer clinic for further assessment and advice.

The *Familial Risk Assessment - Breast and Ovarian Cancer* tool can be accessed online at <http://nbocc.org.au/fraboc/>

