Chairperson’s Letter

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! This year will be busier than normal for health services and health staff. The introduction of the National Health Reform Agenda will bring with it many changes and as mentioned previously, we need to ensure those changes support the delivery of children and young people’s health care, not detract from it.

Planning is well underway for the ACCYPN 2013 Conference. The Board of Directors made a decision at a recent meeting to have a Conference in 2014 and then revert back to Conferences in the even year. During this year (2012) we will call for Expressions of Interest for members to be on the 2014 Conference Committee.

In the States that don’t currently have a Chapter, the Directors will be calling for interested persons to work with them to commence a Chapter in that State or Territory. So if you live in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia or Northern Territory – watch this space.

The growth in the use of technology in society has been amazing in the last few decades. The Internet is the greatest marketing tool since radio, telephone or television. Internet growth substantiates this. It took 37 years for radio to reach 50 million listeners, 34 years for the telephone to have 50 million customers, 13 years for television to reach 50 million viewers and 4 years for the Internet to reach 50 million subscribers\(^1\). Social Media has increased in popularity and Twitter has over one million active users\(^1\) and Facebook has over 500 million users\(^1\) and this has been in less than six years! ACCYPN is aiming to take advantage of the technology advances to support the members.

Communication with members and with external stakeholders in such a geographically diverse country is challenging. To ensure all members have equitable access ACCYPN has taken advantage of technology in the following ways:

- The ACCYPN website
- Virtual networks – via the list serv
- Email communication with members
- Electronic newsletter
- Electronic Journal
- Webcasts for professional development
- Video-conferencing
- ACCYPN has joined Twitter. You can find us at http://twitter.com/ACCYPN. If you have a twitter account don’t forget to put you are a member of ACCYPN in your profile.

If you have any other ideas that will promote communication across the membership, please let a Board member know or advise us via info@accypn.org.au

Yours sincerely, Jan Pratt
Chairperson, ACCYPN Board of Directors

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http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2392658,00.asp

**Courses in Paediatric Palliative Care**

The Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program in partnership with Centre for Palliative Care are very excited to offer all health professionals (medical, nursing & allied health) a postgraduate training course through the University of Melbourne.

**Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care**

**Short Courses in Palliative Care**

For further information please call 9345 5374
Chapter Reports

**Tasmania Chapter**

**Professional Development Day**

Saturday 24 March, 2012

Launceston General Hospital

0945 – 1600 (approx)

Morning Tea & Lunch will be included in Registration.

ACCYPN Member $25  Non Members $45

Final Program out SOON.

Rosie MacLeavy  
Tasmania Chapter Coordinator for ACCYPN

**Queensland Chapter**

A number of Queensland members met on 7 December 2011 to plan for 2012. A decision was made that we will trial setting a meeting date each 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6pm-8pm (venue to be determined). Members can meet for networking purposes; buy a coffee or a meal depending on what they want to do. We will plan to have this operating by April 2012 so watch the website for the venue. If there are a group of members in locations other than Brisbane who want to set this same process in place please advise the Secretariat via info@accypn.org.au and the location will be advertised on the website. If you plan to do this please seek the permission of the venue to advertise their venue on our site.

Two professional development events are being planned:

- In April the Trauma Service from the Royal Children’s Hospital will provide an overview of their service from prevention to treatment.
- In June, staff from the DART Service, Mater Children’s Hospital will be presenting an overview of their service.

We will advertise these events in the near future.

**Addressing the needs of siblings of children with disability or chronic illness – launch of Position Statement**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists’ (RANZCP) Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has recently launched a new Position Statement: *Addressing the needs of siblings of children with disability or chronic illness.*


This Statement, which has been endorsed by over 60 child and mental health organisations, calls on the government to provide mental health support to siblings of children with disability or chronic illness, a group presently neglected and at risk of mental health problems.

If left unaddressed, the challenges which siblings face can increase their risk of developing longer term mental health problems. In spite of considerable lobbying over a number of years, there remains a lack of coordinated activities and national action to support this group of at risk children.

There are a number of systemic gaps that contribute significantly to the inadequacy of services for siblings. Siblings are not included in government policies or strategic directions and no one government department takes responsibility for this group of children. There is a lack of effective and appropriate assessment tools to identify children that may appear to be managing well but who are struggling with a range of issues. There is limited workforce training in sibling support, limited evaluation of the sibling support programs available, and a lack of national coordination of sibling support programs and information.

As part of the launch, the RANZCP is encouraging relevant government departments to review the statement’s recommendations and consider what can be done to better support the needs of siblings of children with disability or chronic conditions. Further information about the project can be found at the following link: [http://www.ranzcp.org/policy-advocacy/adressing-the-needs-of-siblings-of-children-with-disability-or-chronic-illness.html](http://www.ranzcp.org/policy-advocacy/adressing-the-needs-of-siblings-of-children-with-disability-or-chronic-illness.html)

Thank you again for your endorsement of this statement. It is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

**Felicity Kenn** – Manager, Policy Practice, Policy & Projects

The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, 309 La Trobe Street, Melbourne  Vic 3000
ACCYPN Conference Report
Submitted by Sue Scott

The ACCYPN Inaugural Conference, "Navigating New Directions in Children's and Young People's Health Care" was held at Novotel Hotel, Brighton Beach, Sydney on 19-21 October 2011.

The Conference commenced on Wednesday 19 October with a choice of three pre-Conference Master Classes presented by the keynote speakers.

I attended "Managing Change through Effective Leadership" presented by Dame Elizabeth Fradd, an Independent Health Service Government Advisor from the United Kingdom. The dynamic presentation gave clear messages about the success of leading change, how to think differently, and the importance of reflection.

Dame Elizabeth Fradd also presented another plenary session "Recognising Best Practice in Care of Children" - the increasing complexity of our paediatric patients and the vital role of nurses was acknowledged.

Other keynote speakers were:
Professor Phillip Darbyshire (Australia) who presented a plenary session “Out of the mouths of babes,” focussed on how well do we listen to children, young people and families experiences of illness, hospitalisation and health services?
Professor Margaret Sims (Australia) presented “Early Childhood and Education Services for Indigenous Children before starting school.”
Ms Molly Carlile (Victoria), known as Death Talker whose motto is “the more we talk the less we fear” explored the elements of relationships, dealing with grief and self care as health professionals.

Concurrent sessions:
Over the two days I attended interesting, thought-provoking presentations by passionate, experienced Paediatric and Maternal Child Health Nurses. These included learning and leading in Nursing Education, Practice Development, Family Centred care, Practice Innovation, Safety and Quality and community and clinical practice, including Mental Health Immunisation and Oncology.

Breakfast Debate:
The breakfast debate entitled “Childrenhood Obesity- treat society not the child” was a fun, engaging and educational debate.

Annual General Meeting:
The ACCYPN AGM was held during the Conference and as first Face-to-Face AGM, it allowed members to meet the Chairperson Jan Pratt and Board members.

The Conference concluded with a Panel Discussion including all keynote speakers entitled “What is happening to our children's childhood.” There was a very vibrant discussion around children’s social, educational and family issues that may impact on their health.

The Welcome Reception and Dinner were well organised, enjoyable and the excellent poster presentations and trade tables added to the success of the Conference.

It was a most rewarding experience personally and professionally to be able to experience the high calibre speakers and network with other health professionals.

Sue Scott
Royal Children's Hospital (formerly Paediatric Unit, Royal Hobart Hospital)

Interesting Links

Snapshot 2011: Children and Young People in Queensland
“Snapshot 2011: Children and Young People in Queensland” contains a report written by the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian; Elizabeth Fraser and details the findings of the Commission's most recent survey of young people in detention. All reports are available on the Commissions website at www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

Early Childhood Development Workforce: Release of Final Report
The report into Early Childhood Development Workforce has been released by the Australian Government.