

Welcome to the second issue of the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention E-Newsletter. This newsletter seeks to increase knowledge of current activities and research in suicide prevention.

Website update

The Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention recently updated its web site.

New sections include:

- Recent statistics for Western Australia and Australia
- School and Teachers section
- Self harm
- State and National Projects
- How to help someone you are concerned about
- New website links and
- Amendment to reflect suicide prevention across all age groups.

ASPiRE

The Australian Suicide Prevention Information and Resource Exchange (ASPiRE) is a strategy of the Resource and Information working group of the Council. ASPiRE provides access to suicide prevention information, research and resources. Over 2000 items are available, online where possible, or via interlibrary loans.

Web Log

The new suicide prevention web log or "blog" is now available. This provides access to relevant publications and websites of note <http://suicideprevention.blogspot.com/>.

Duty to Care: Physical illness in people with mental illness

'Duty to Care' is a key resource that examined physical illness in people with mental illness using the Western Australian Linked Database to examine the physical health of people with mental illness. People with mental illness are among the most marginalised people in our community. The consequences of mental illness often extend beyond the direct symptoms of the illness to affect people's social and economic well being and all aspects of their lives.

Online copies of this resource are available on the MCSP website at

http://suicideprevention.blogspot.com/2003_07_01_suicideprevention_archive.html#105823064623342529

Auseinet

Auseinetter Issue 17 April 2003 available at

<http://www.auseinet.com/resources/auseinet/netter17/>

AeJAMH - The Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health - Volume 2 Issue 2 (July 2003) is available online at

<http://auseinet.flinders.edu.au/journal/vol2iss2/index.php>

New research

1. Hall, D., Mant, A., Mitchell, P., Rendle, V., Hickie, I. & McManus, P. (May, 2003). Association between antidepressant prescribing and suicide in Australia, 1991-2000: trend analysis. Full report <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7397/1008>

2. Centre for Suicide Prevention. (May, 2003). Substance abuse in combination with other mental illnesses: Together, do they increase suicide risk?

Full report available at <http://www.suicideinfo.ca/library/alert/alert51.pdf>

WHATS HAPPENING IN WA

Grief Awareness Week

During National Loss and Grief Awareness week 24th – 30th August 2003, Murdoch Community Hospice will be conducting information workshops on

- Monday 25th August 9am – 3pm
Keynote speakers – Dr David Thorne, Prof Linda Kristjanson, Ass Prof Martin Philpott, Micheal Tunnecliffe and Sylvia Marina.
- Wednesday 27th August 9am – 1pm
Keynote speakers – Dr Leanne Monterosso, Chris Gostelow and Sylvia Marina.

Registration by 13th August. For more information contact Veronica Coombs on 9366 1366 or at counselling@murdochhospice.asn.au

WHATS HAPPENING NATIONALLY?

Mindframe (National Media Strategy)

The Mindframe National Media Strategy seeks to influence and support the media in reporting mental illness and suicide issues responsibly. It has been developed in collaboration with key stakeholders including the media, mental health promotion and suicide prevention experts and consumer and carer groups. Initiatives include: media monitoring research, resources for media professionals, media awards, resources for community action against stigma, and curriculum resources for journalism and media studies students and educators.

The Mindframe resource is available at <http://www.mindframe-media.info/>

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Two-day Gatekeeper Workshop

The Gatekeeper Workshop provided by the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention is nationally acclaimed as an outstanding evidenced based resource for use with professionals to reduce youth suicide. The two-day Gatekeeper Workshop provides participants with a range of skills and knowledge that improve their ability and confidence to work with suicidal young people.

Perth 5 and 6 (Tuesday and Wednesday) August 2003

Perth 28 and 29 (Tuesday and Wednesday) October 2003

1-day Refresher Workshops

This training reviews the major topics covered by the Gatekeeper Workshop, with a particular emphasis on risk assessment. Time is given for participants to reflect on how they have used their Gatekeeper skills.

Perth 3 (Wednesday) September 2003

1 day Advanced Skills Workshops

This one-day workshop targets professionals who have completed the Youth Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Workshop and/or who work extensively with people at risk of self-harm or suicide.

Perth: 7 October (Wednesday) 2003

Bookings:

For bookings, phone Nikki Kerr on 9426 7104 or Nikki.Kerr@eddept.wa.edu.au or online at <http://www.text.com.au/cisevents/>.

For more information about the types of workshops offered visit the MCSP website at www.mcsp.org.au or contact Bronwyn Williams on 9426 7118 / email bronwyn.Williams@eddept.wa.edu.au.

CONFERENCES

Western Australia

- Australian Psychological Society Conference 'Development through Diversity'
October 2-5, 2003 Sheraton Hotel, Perth (October 1, Workshops at the Novotel)
http://www.psychsociety.com.au/events/conferences/9.1_7.asp
- Primary Mental Health Partnerships Conference
October 17-18. Rottnest Island, Western Australia.
For further information: Christine Toase Phone: (08) 9336555
Call for Papers and registration of interest. Download at
http://www.aicafmha.net.au/enevents/info03/Rottnest_call_jun2003.pdf

Australia

- National Carers Conference 2003
18 September 2003 Sydney, Australia.
18 September 2003 to 19 September 2003 Canberra, Australia
For further information: Phone: 02 6282 7886
Web Site: http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/Carers_conference_2003.html
- Consumers Issues Mental Health Conference
01 October 2003 to 02 October 2003 Sydney, Australia
For further information: Phone Desley Casey (02) 9976 9602
- 3rd State Conference of the Elderly Suicide Prevention Network: What's resilience got to do with it? *Sydney, Australia*
For further information: Troy Speirs, Phone: 02 9840 4120
E-Mail: espnconference@wsahs.nsw.gov.au
- International Internet, Media and Mental Health Conference
21 April 2004 to 24 April 2004 Brisbane, Australia
For further information: [http:// www.immh03.im.com.au](http://www.immh03.im.com.au)

International

- SPINZ 2003 Symposium – Making a Difference – youth suicide interventions and their impact.
26 November 2003 to 27 November 2003 Auckland, New Zealand
An Aotearoa New Zealand youth suicide prevention symposium
For further information: <http://www.spinz.org.nz>
- 3rd World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders "From Research to Effective Practice"
15 September 2004 to 17 September 2004 Auckland, New Zealand
For further information: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz>
- International Association for Suicide Prevention Congress
10 September 2003 to 14 September 2003 Stockholm, Sweden
For further information: Web Site: <http://www.med.uio.no/iasp/>

If you have project material that you would like to have listed in the next newsletter, please email project information to katem@ichr.uwa.edu.au.

Please provide feedback as to what you would like to see in the newsletter email katem@ichr.uwa.edu.au.

MAILING LIST: If you are not already on the MCSP mailing list and would like to join click on the following link www.mcsp.org.au. Details provided for the mailing list will be treated in line with the Guidelines on Privacy in the Private Health Sector 2001.