



Summer December/January 2002

Vol 6 Issue 1

Creativity and Water Safety



Guest speakers & prize winners

What's a good way to teach good sense in the water to children and young people? Let them produce their own water safety posters.

A summer campaign developed and implemented by Multicultural Communication for the Water Safety Task Force gave water safety messages to primary and secondary students attending Arabic, Chinese

and Vietnamese language schools. They were asked to produce a poster covering at least one of these key messages:

- Learn to swim and survive
- Always supervise children near water
- Never swim alone
- Only swim between the red and yellow flags at the beach
- Fence swimming pools
- Beware of fast-flowing water, submerged objects and deep water, and
- Have lifejackets on board for all

Prizes of playstations for the best posters were awarded on December 20 at a ceremony in Parliament House. Guest speakers included the Hon. Morris Iemma MP, Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon. Eddie Obeid, MLC, Minister for Mineral Resources and Fisheries, The Hon. Dr. Peter Wong, AM MLC and Councillor Thang Ngo.

The new Multilingual Health Information Policy is working

It was great hearing from Vicki Jeffreys, Manager of Kids Health at the Children's Hospital, Westmead, who let us know that the following new fact sheets have been translated into Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese, and has offered them to our Service for our website.

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|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| • Bronchiolitis | • Febrile Convulsions | • Home Safety Checklist |
| • Croup | • Gastroenteritis | • Urinary Tract Infection |

Acting on the policy guidelines when producing new multilingual material (eg checking that no similar resource exists or is in the pipeline, and sharing the resource through Multicultural Communication) will help prevent duplication, increase efficiency and save money. Thanks, Vicky - well done.

New staff members

We now have a new staff member, **Cecily Michaels**, who has been appointed to the position of Multilingual Information Development Officer. Cecily has an MA in Development and Community Organisation and is close to completing her Masters in Public Health. She has extensive experience as an overseas aid worker and brings a new perspective to our Service especially in the area of community development and recently arrived refugees. Welcome Cecily.

For our last two campaigns we have employed an additional communications expert, **Steve Keating**. Steve, a TAFE communications teacher, worked on World No Tobacco Day 2001 campaign, the Water Safety campaign, and has recently conducted the preliminary work for the Drug Campaign for the Premier's Department. We are hoping he will assist with this year's World No Tobacco Day and other campaigns we are working on.

Book Review *The Colour of Difference: journeys in transracial adoption* launched late last year.

This is an Australian "first" – a collection of 27 stories by transracial adoptees (aged 17-50) from a wide range of racial and cultural backgrounds. It was launched recently by the Benevolent Society's Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC).

This is the first generation of adoptees – from Aboriginal, Maori, Vietnamese, Korean, Indian, Bangladeshi, Chinese-Australian, Fijian, South American and African backgrounds - who can tell us about being raised in Australia in families whose culture and colour is different to their own.

They have written honestly and openly about their experiences of transracial adoption. Many have struggled to find a place for themselves either in Australian society at large, the ethnic community here of their origin, or by returning to visit their country of origin. Most have experienced racism and – having white parents who are not always able to teach them ways of coping – have painfully developed their own strategies.

Their stories are not only a gripping read for adopted people, adoptive parents and professionals, but also for anyone with an interest in adoption, race or multiculturalism.

The Colour of Difference is edited by Sarah Armstrong and Petrina Slaytor, and published by Federation Press. It costs \$29.95 + postage and is available from PARC (02) 9365 3444; email parc@bensoc.asn.au or from Federation Press (02) 9552 2200; email info@federationpress.com.au

Visiting Detainees at Villawood

We've all read a great deal about the Villawood Detention Centre, but few people seem to know that it's possible to visit detainees.

There is very little to occupy the detainees, so visitors are very welcome. Detainees who have gone on to be accepted as permanent residents have stated that their visitors were their "lifeline to the outside world" - something that helped to keep them going.

Once you meet them, hear their stories, share their pain, it is impossible to ever view them as a faceless entity again - as "queue jumpers", as "boat people", as "illegals" or criminals. They have a name, a face, and they once had a life. They are someone's father, daughter, brother, friend and they deserve our empathy, our help.

The idea is for first-time visitors to go "escorted", so that access can be smoother. After that, you can go under your own steam. One-off visiting is discouraged. It feels too much like abandonment if we visit just once or twice and disappear out of their lives as quickly as we came into them.

If you are interested in visiting, please contact Ilona Lee, (02) 9382 7518 or leei@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

New catalogue of multilingual material available

Following the review of multilingual material on our website, we have:

- deleted publications that are no longer current from the site
- developed a revamped catalogue that includes language specific lists of titles
- established new systems for continuously reviewing materials and updating the catalogue.

We're doing a limited print run of the new catalogue. If you wish to receive a copy/copies, please phone Cecilia on (02) 9382 7516; email georgec@sesahs.nsw.gov.au; or fax your request to (02) 9382 7517.

As a result of this review and of discussions with health workers, we realise some outdated materials are still being distributed. Some of them have information that has changed since they were produced, and are now incorrect, eg immunisation schedules.

Some publications have been withdrawn and others have been modified. Please make sure that the information you distribute is current

You can

- check our website <www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au> or <<http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/health-public-affairs/mhcs>>
- if you don't have access to the net, use our health fax-back service by phoning 1300 859 659.

Use of our website continues to grow

We're always pleased to have positive feedback about our website – these comments arrived in December:

"I recently heard about your website through an intercultural health listserve (ncihc-list@diversityrx.org). I am very impressed with your health education materials and the number of languages into which they are translated. I am wondering if you would give me permission to copy some of these translations for use with our international students. If you did agree to our distributing these, we would acknowledge your agency as the primary author. Thank you very much."

Susan L. Kennedy, Ph.D. Assoc. Director for Educational Services, Penn State University Health Services

"Schering-Plough Pty Ltd in Australia is in the process of developing our corporate website. As a matter of courtesy we would like to let you know that we plan to include links to your website."

Dr Amelia Siu, Schering-Plough Pty Ltd

"The Community Services, Health, Tourism and Hospitality Division of TAFE develops and provides learning resources for delivery by TAFE NSW Institutes. Presently the Division is developing an on-line resource for Children's Services. We have noted that your site is educationally useful for our students and staff and we would like to link to it as part of the Children's Services On-line Learningware Project."

Program Manager, Child and Family Services, TAFE

Health on the air in Arabic

Auburn Community Health Centre, a Unit of the WSAHS is now presenting important health information on TV and radio. You can tune in to Channel 31 on any Friday between 6.00pm and 7.30pm for information on general health and statewide health campaigns in Arabic. This program consists of interviews with health professionals, talk-back and promotion of health issues.

Starting in April, this information will also be heard on SWR FM 99.9 every Monday between 10.00am and 12 noon

These television and radio segments are coordinated and presented by Agnes Polese and the sound engineer and broadcaster is Maher Maurice.

For more information, or if you have a health topic or campaign you would like to promote in Arabic, or if you would like to be part of the program, please contact Agnes Polese at the WSAHS on (02) 9646 2233 (Thur-Fri), at the studio on (02) 9556 3364 (Mon-Wed), or on her mobile 0418 278 580.

Multilingual Asthma Information

Because there's a great need for current multilingual information on asthma, we have been working with both NSW Health and the Asthma Foundation on an English version.

This is now available and we've agreed with Asthma Victoria that they will produce the information in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Turkish and Vietnamese, while we produce it in Croatian, Indonesian, Korean, Japanese, Macedonian and Spanish.

Within a few weeks we expect all languages to be available - some on our website and some on Asthma Victoria's website at www.asthma.org.au

Infectious Diseases of Children fact sheet

A new fact sheet, *Some infectious diseases of children*, has been produced in 10 languages.

Translated from the recently published DOH brochure, topics covered are chickenpox, conjunctivitis, gastroenteritis, German measles (Rubella), glandular fever, hand, foot and mouth disease, head lice, hepatitis A, impetigo (school sores), influenza, measles, meningococcal disease, mumps, ringworm, scabies, scarlet fever, slapped cheek, whooping cough (pertussis), and worms.

Make sure your networks know about this fact sheet, now available on our website.

Save your skin from Australia's commonest cancer

Originally published in October 2001, this Fact Sheet is now available in a further 8 languages. The full range is Arabic, Assyrian, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer/Cambodian, Korean, Lao, Macedonian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese. It is listed under subject heading Cancer and is available on our website.

Nursing as a career in Australia

Our January Fact Sheet provides information on nursing to encourage people from CALD communities to take up nursing as a career. It includes career information, areas of specialisation and work opportunities for women and men in nursing in Australia, as well as details of nursing qualifications required in NSW. Available in 10 languages, this publication is listed on our website and in the Catalogue under Health Services.

What our Health Fact Sheets said ...

Nov 2001	<p>Title: <i>Do you need a hospital emergency department - or can your local doctor help?</i></p> <p>Topic area: Health Services</p> <p>Summary: The role of hospital emergency departments</p>	<p>Languages: Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, English, Farsi, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Macedonian, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese.</p>
Dec 2001	No fact sheet produced	
Jan 2002	<p>Title: <i>Nursing as a career in Australia</i></p> <p>Topic area: Health Services</p> <p>Summary: Career information, work opportunities for women and men in nursing in Australia. Details of nursing qualifications required in NSW and on areas of specialisation</p>	<p>Languages: Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, English, Farsi, Greek, Italian, Korean, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish.</p>

<p>Deadline for next edition: 20th March, 2002</p>	<p>Polyglot is published by the New South Wales Multicultural Health Communication Service. Articles for inclusion can be sent to Cecilia George, NSW MHCS, Sydney Hospital & Sydney Eye Hospital, P.O. Box 1614, Sydney, NSW 2001, fax no. (02) 9382 7517, email: <georgec@sesahs.nsw.gov.au>.</p>
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