

September 2011

Heather Badger, Program Coordinator for General Practice SA represented South Australia at the August Immunisation Coordinators network meeting held by AGPN in Parramatta.

With all states and territories represented, key topics discussed at the meeting included:

- Need for clarity around 4 year old 'healthy kids checks' being done at 3½ years
- Mental health checks conducted at 3 years of age may interfere with NIP and child care payments
- Centrelink claims a tax incentive program for 4 year olds will be pulled back to the mental health check at 3, uses honour system of parental honesty for a tax rebate. One check at 3½ would encompass all of the above.

Workshop report

National Pertussis Workshop - Strategies to prevent severe pertussis in the next decade - 25 –26 August 2011. The National Pertussis workshop brought together both national and international experts to share the latest information on pertussis. Presentations from the conference can be accessed on the following link:
<http://ncirs.edu.au/news/archive.php>

Resources and other useful links

A creative new immunisation poster developed by General Practice NSW can be seen here
http://www.gpsa.org.au/media/docs/immunisation/nsw_immunisation_and_health_assessment_schedule_brochure.pdf

Haematologist with an autistic child refuting claims of immunisation link and autism. Claims genetic link much stronger. Discussion around a paper on a similar issue- <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Adverse-Effects-of-Vaccines-Evidence-and-Causality.aspx>

Bruce Aylward's TED talk on Polio:
http://www.ted.com/talks/bruce_aylward_how_we_ll_stop_polio.html

Bill Gates and GAVI Alliance links:

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annual-letter/2011/Pages/vaccines-save-lives-animation.aspx>

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annual-letter/2011/Pages/home.aspx>

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/speeches-commentary/Pages/melinda-gates-2011-care-conference.aspx>

Guest speakers

Heather Gidding from the Kirby Institute of UNSW spoke on "Q fever epidemiology and control in Australia, and the recent outbreak in The Netherlands". Take the following link to view her presentation:

http://www.gpsa.org.au/media/docs/immunisation/110829_presentation_heather_gidding_kirby.pdf

Kath Cannings from (AEFI) clinic at Westmead "Children's Hospital at Westmead AEFI Clinic" spoke on vaccinating after an adverse event. Take the following link to view her presentation:

http://www.gpsa.org.au/media/docs/immunisation/110829_presentation_d_k_cannings_aefi_pres.pdf

Visit to WentWest - Medicare Local

The meeting included a visit to WentWest Medicare Local in Blacktown, a region that has the largest urban indigenous population in Australia and where 44% of the population is born overseas. Their immunisation rates are climbing which they attributed to their efforts in fostering relationships with practices and their innovative immunisation programs and campaigns, such as the 4-year-old immunisation bike competition. <http://www.wentwest.com.au/public/immunisation.asp>

Upcoming meetings

The next SBOIC meeting will coincide with the AGPN National Forum as well as the Meningococcal Disease Workshop in Melbourne in November.