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Contact Us:-

<http://www.vtpu.org.au>
vtpu@svhm.org.au

Note from the Manager

In this edition of the newsletter we take pleasure in introducing new staff members, and invite you to address their consultancy services when addressing culturally responsive service delivery in your organisation. The consultants bring with them a number of clinical skills, service development, training, and research experience.

Following a two year quality service development project, VTPU are finalising evaluation reports and key findings on effective capacity building strategies. These reports address education and training, service development and secondary consultation initiatives. We look forward to making these reports available to the specialist mental health sector to assist with cultural responsiveness quality improvement initiatives. [...more](#)

About our newest additions to the VTPU team

We take pleasure in welcoming our newest staff members, who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the VTPU.

Harvey Tuck joined the VTPU in January this year. He has a background in psychiatric nursing, with an Advanced Diploma in Community Psychiatry. He worked as a therapist in Community Mental Health Centre's in Auckland, New Zealand from 1979-86, specialising in systemic family therapy [...more](#)

Marieke Van Regteren Altena has worked as an occupational therapist and research clinician in community and specialist mental health services within NSW and Victoria. She has had experience working in mental health and disability services in the UK, France and India [...more](#)

Kimberley Wriedt holds a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Hons), and has worked in the mental health field within the psychiatric disability and rehabilitation support services sector [...more](#)

Dr Justin Kuay is a qualified medical practitioner who completed his medical training though St Vincents Hospital. He is currently a senior registrar in his final year of specialty training in psychiatry [...more](#)

National Perinatal Depression Initiative



The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Perinatal Depression Initiative, which is part of Victoria's response to the National Perinatal Depression Initiative has become an area of increasing focus over the last two decades, in part as a result of a growing appreciation of the impact of quality nurturing in early childhood, the impact of poor nurturing on adult mental health, and possible profound negative consequences for mothers and other family members following poorly managed perinatal care. For a brief summary of the recent forum convened by Project Officer, Brendon Moss, click [here](#).

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Report on the first session of VTPU seminar series 2011

Our first Seminar held this year was titled 'The second generation of CALD background - a non-identifiable population in mental health practice' by Magio Konidaris. For more detail, click [here](#).

Justin Kuay, Psychiatric Registrar located in VTPU, presented the following study[more](#)

Dates for upcoming VTPU Seminars and Case Presentations:

Weds 15th June

Weds 20th July

Weds 17th August

Weds 21 September

Weds 19th October

The full seminar program for 2011 is located on our [homepage](#).

Fostering open communication to forge a better mental health system to include CALD Communities ~ Evan Bichara, Consumer Advocate

We know that only a small portion of CALD people with mental health problems access mental health services. What are the barriers? What barriers do we create as organisations that prevent CALD communities from accessing services? Can these barriers, once recognised be diminished so that access, equity, inclusion and equality in mental health service delivery for CALD clients can be achieved? It has been, and always will be, a continual learning process for developing programs in terms of the needs of the CALD populations ...[more](#)

VTPU Training

Another series of the 5 module cultural responsiveness training titled '**Culturally Responsiveness for Specialist Mental Health Services**' commencing 5th July. We have only a few spots left to fill, so if you are interested in registering, please click [here](#) to access the link to the registration form from the VTPU homepage.

Dates and topics for training participants

DATE	MODULE TOPIC
Tues 5 th July	1. Culturally responsive mental health services: community and organisational strategies
Tues 19 th July	2. Understanding CaLD consumers and carers and working effectively with interpreters
Tues 2 nd Aug	3. Values and the sense of self across cultures: issues in assessment
Tues 16 th Aug	4. Cultural beliefs about mental health and illness: negotiating explanatory models
Tues 6 th Sept	5. Working with refugees: care and recovery in mental health settings