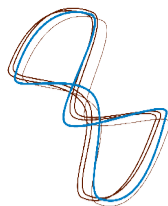


Community Health News

October 2010



Mitchell
Community Health



Providers of health and social support services within the shires of Mitchell and Murrindindi. Working actively with communities to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and prevent illness.

Services available

Mitchell Community Health Service (MCHS) provides a range of services to the Murrindindi community.

These include:

- Bushfire Counselling & Support Services
- Bushfire Case Management
- Family Violence Outreach Service
- Problem Gambling Counselling
- Disability Case Management
- Rural Access Project
- Financial Counselling
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services
- Rural Allied Health Team (available to aged, frail and disabled members of the community and their carers) including: Podiatry, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology, Continence Nurse Advisor and a Dietitian.

Services are currently available in Alexandra, Yea, Marysville, Flowerdale, Kinglake Ranges and other sites by arrangement.

For more information about how we can help, please contact the Service Access and Care Coordination team on 1300 773 352.

Caring for our Children

Children affected by traumatic events such as bushfires often require specific support.

This may include a variety of emotional and physical supports to address the effects of the trauma.

The newly established Paediatric Bushfire Support Service (PBSS) provides support for children and their families affected by the February 2009 bushfires.

The program is funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and will run until July 2011.

Allied Health support provided as part of the Paediatric Bushfire Support Service (PBSS) includes the following services and programs:

- Counselling
- Speech Pathology
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietary Advice

The key features of the Paediatric Bushfire Support Service (PBSS) include:

- self referral
- continuity of support services
- for children aged 0 - 8 years
- allied health support continues when children commence schooling
- staff travel as required to support children in their natural environment eg: child care, preschool, primary school and the family home
- the service is available to bushfire affected children from the Shires of Murrindindi and Mitchell

To find out if your child is eligible for this service, please contact the Service Access and Care Coordination (SACC) team on **1300 773 352** and ask about the Paediatric Bushfire Support Service.



Service Access and Care Coordination (SACC)

For all MCHS enquiries and bookings, phone the SACC team on: 1300 773 352

Mitchell Community Health Service is located in Broadford, Wallan, Seymour, Kinglake, Alexandra, Yea, Marysville, Flowerdale and other sites in Murrindindi by negotiation.

Broadford Reception: 5784 5555 Web: www.mitchellchs.org.au

Financial Counselling Update

This month our Financial Counselling team would like to draw your attention to some significant changes to credit legislation that may have an impact on your access to credit.

The new national credit legislation commenced on 1 July 2010 and is called the National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009.

The Act converts the current Victorian legislation into National legislation that will be regulated by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC).

The Act promotes principles of 'responsible lending' which places the onus on the lender to gather adequate information to ensure the consumer has a capacity to repay.

As a result, consumers applying for credit may find it more difficult than before as they need to be able to produce evidence of their capacity to repay a loan.

Some of the other changes include:

- Establishing a national licensing regime to require providers of consumer credit and credit-related brokering services and advice to obtain a license from ASIC.
- Requiring mandatory membership of an external dispute resolution (EDR) body by all providers of consumer credit and credit-related brokering services and advice. This will mean membership to either Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) or the Credit Ombudsman Service Limited (COSL).

Consumers will benefit from the requirement for credit providers to be members of an EDR scheme as it provides an independent body to hear complaints that cannot be settled by the credit provider's internal channels.

For more information regarding the new legislation, you can check out ASIC's website www.asic.gov.au under the heading 'credit' or contact your local financial counsellor.

The Mitchell Community Health Service Financial Counselling Team are available to assist you in matters relating to debt and/or any sort of financial dispute.

Please contact MCHS on **1300 773 352** to make an appointment.

Home and Community Care

Mitchell Community Health Service provides speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, continence nursing and dietetics to Home and Community Care (HACC) eligible residents in the Shire of Murrindindi.

The HACC Allied Health Team supports people and carers to remain independently living at home.

If you live at home or care for someone and need extra support please contact us to find out if you are eligible for our services.

A referral is not needed and support is just a phone call away.

Our services can be provided in your own home.

Telephone the Service Access and Care Coordination (SACC) team on **1300 773 352** to find out more.

- Speech Pathology - assessments and guidance for managing communication and swallowing disorders.
- Conditions such as Parkinson's Disease, respiratory illness, Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis can be supported. Education is provided for carers and clients.
- Continence Nursing - assessment and management strategies to people and carers regarding bladder and bowel control.
- Information and education on the use of aids and appliances and assistance with access to these.
- Education and advice for men and their families from diagnosis to treatment of prostate issues/cancer. Catheter care & education.