

SDOHA

NEWS

24 February 2014

Media Coverage of Public Forum on Racism and Culture as Social Determinants

Over 70 people from the health and community sectors came together in Melbourne last week for the SDOHA Public Forum to discuss the impact of racism and culture on health outcomes in Australia.

Speakers at the forum included:

- Professor Dennis McDermott (Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University)
- Associate Professor Yin Paradies (Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University)
- Dr Barri Phatarfod (Doctors for Refugees)
- Professor Andrew Markus (School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University)
- Liam Leonard (Director, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria)
- Katherine Thurber (Doctoral Candidate, Australian National University)

Below is the link to the SBS TV News story about Thursday's public forum. The segment is 27 min 18 seconds into the news:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/140117059960/SBS-World-News-20-February>

Here's the story as it appeared on NITV News (same as SBS TV News story) – it's 4 mins and 25 secs into the bulletin:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/161248835880/NITV-News-20-February-part-1>

So far the forum has been covered by:

- SBS TV News
- ABC News Radio
- NITV News
- SBS Radio (<http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/radionews/episode/319374/Is-racism-affecting-Australians-health>)
- National Radio News
- 93.7FM Koori Radio (based in Sydney)

A very pleasing response 😊.

The media release relating to the event is available on the SDOHA website at:

www.socialdeterminants.org.au . Powerpoint slides and audio recordings of the presentations will also be available on the website within the next day or so.

Upcoming Events/Items for Circulation from Members

Upcoming Event: Meeting of the Victorian Medicare Action Group (VMAG)

SDOHA members would be aware of recent ideas canvassed by the Commonwealth Government regarding proposed changes to the Medicare system. These changes include a proposal for a co payment for GP attendance as well as an increased role for private health insurance companies in financing and managing the primary healthcare system.

The purpose of the upcoming meeting is to discuss the level of interest of participants and the broader community in advocating to ensure Medicare is in the first instance protected; and in the second instance expanded to cover other critical primary healthcare services.

Where: Banyule Community Health, 21 Alamein Road, West Heidelberg VIC
When: Friday 7th March 2014
Time: 10 am - 12 noon
RSVP: vic.medicare.action@gmail.com by Monday 3rd March 2014

Discussion Paper by Unity of First People of Australia: Aboriginal Health. Has there been any progress - yet?

We have created a new page on the SDOHA website called 'Members Noticeboard'. The Noticeboard page will be used to post items provided by member organisations for information. A copy of this discussion paper and the accompanying letter to the Prime Minister can be found on the Members Noticeboard page of the SDOHA website at: www.socialdeterminants.org.au

Online Petition: Don't Leave Country Patients Out in the Cold

You can view this petition about the impact of accommodation closures at city hospitals for country patients at: <http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/no-more-accommodation-for-country-patients-in-the-city?crcountrypatients=6&t=dXNlcmkPTYxMDg0MSxlbWFpbGlkPTM2OTE=>

News Items of Interest from the Last Week

Apart from the media coverage of the SDOHA forum in Melbourne, other media items of interest over the last week or so included:

20 February 2013

Dutton's health productivity call long overdue (Catholic Communications)

Australia's health funding is unsustainable, but quality improvements and cost efficiencies without essential service cuts can be achieved by expanding not-for-profit health care delivery, according to Catholic Health Australia.

http://www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/News-and-Events/News/Article/16259/Dutton-s-health-productivity-call-long-overdue#.Uwq_FoW4Tj8

18 February 2014

Liberals: Roger Jaensch (The Examiner, TAS)

Profile piece on the Tasmanian Liberals' Roger Jaensch, whose resume includes the Medicare Local Social Determinants of Health Steering Committee. Mr Jaensch is the Liberal Candidate for Braddon in the upcoming State Election.

<http://www.examiner.com.au/story/2095725/liberals-roger-jaensch/>

17 February 2014

Health policy expert sets agenda (6 Minutes)

The Abbott Government was elected with "almost no health policy" according to a leading academic who says it must focus on three key areas as a matter of urgency. Professor Stephen Duckett, a health policy expert at La Trobe University and a director at the Grattan Institute, said despite an apparent

health policy deficit coming into the job, the government now needs to set policies and priorities and make sure they are more than “just one-term quick fixes”. At the very least, he says it must keep the Medicare promise, think beyond services by addressing the social determinants of health, and get governance right if it is to succeed.

<http://www.6minutes.com.au/news/latest-news/health-policy-expert-sets-agenda>

Mr Abbott, make 2014 a year of health reform, not regression (The Conversation)

More from Professor Stephen Duckett about his three-point plan to ensure 2014 is a year of health reform, not regression.

<http://theconversation.com/mr-abbott-make-2014-a-year-of-health-reform-not-regression-22995>

16 February 2014

Time to recognise sexual orientation as a social determinant of health (Medical Journal of Australia)

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2014/200/3/time-recognise-sexual-orientation-social-determinant-health>

Priorities for a new government: keeping the Medicare promise, thinking beyond services and getting governance right (Medical Journal of Australia)

For full text of MJA article by Professor Stephen Duckett.

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2014/200/3/priorities-new-government-keeping-medicare-promise-thinking-beyond-services-and>

14 February 2014

Health inequality widest in older middle-aged census analysis shows (Office for National Statistics, UK)

The latest ONS analysis reveals that area deprivation in England affects people’s health across all ages, but this is most intense among older middle-aged men and women.

bit.ly/1dXYwtE