

SDOHA

NEWS

18 December 2015

Items for Circulation from Members

2015 AMA Report Card on Indigenous Health

The AMA Indigenous Health Report Card series commenced in 2002 with an overview of the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, which was aptly titled 'No More Excuses'. In the ensuing years, the AMA Report Cards have covered important issues such as the Indigenous medical workforce, low birth weight babies, institutionalised inequity, childhood health, the health of Indigenous males, the inadequacy of funding, best practice in primary care, and getting the right start in life in the early years. Click [here](#) for full report.

Member events previously advertised:

- [2015 Canberra Conference on Earth System Governance – ANU, 14-16 December](#)
- [Addiction 2016 – Gold Coast - 18-20 May 2016](#)

News Items of Interest

Media items of interest over the past week included:

15 December 2015

On Star Wars, and the Force – Awakening for Social Change (The Huffington Post)

Nearly four decades ago a buddy of mine and I settled into a movie theatre near Asbury Park, New Jersey, to check out some newly released film entitled *Star Wars*. We had just completed a gruelling, demanding first year of medical school, and I thought some mindless science fantasy flick would be just what the doctor ordered: no thinking or higher-level analysis anticipated, just some popcorn, special effects, and occasional stuff blowing up on the big screen. Click [here](#) for full article.

Experts call for radical action to assure health for entire India (Medical News)

A paper published in *The Lancet* today calls for a radical transformation in the architecture of India's healthcare delivery system, if the country is to achieve the government's vision of assuring health for all. Click [here](#) for full article.

11 December 2015

Improving population health means more than reducing inequality (On line opinion)

Growing concern over rising inequality has renewed interest in the effects of inequality on health. But the science is not as straightforward as many think. Click [here](#) for full article.

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9 December 2015

Specific unmet socioeconomic needs can hamper quality of care patients receive, MGH study finds (Medical News)

A study of patients seen at two primary care practices at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) has identified specific unmet socioeconomic needs that can interfere with the quality of care patients receive. In their report published online in the journal *BMJ Quality & Safety*, investigators from MGH and from Health Leads - a Boston-based organization that helps connect patients with local services - describe finding how limited financial and other resources relate to specific health problems. This is the first study to examine those connections in adult patients. Click [here](#) for full article.

8 December 2015

Cyberattacks will compromise 1-in-3 healthcare records next year (Computer World)

Consumers will see an increase in successful cyberattacks against their online health records next year; supercomputers like IBM's Watson will reduce patient deaths and treatment costs by 10% in 2018; and virtual healthcare will soon become routine.

Those are some of the predictions made by IDC's Health Insights group in a new [report](#).

7 December 2015

Capital Health Network shares in funding to tackle ice addiction in Canberra (Brisbane Times & 4 other sources)

A holistic, community-based approach to tackling ice addiction is central to developing new ways of preventing and treating drug users, Canberra's primary health care organisation says. The Capital Health Network will share in \$241.5 million to identify gaps in the provision of ACT services and develop a local response to the scourge. Click [here](#) for full article.

6 December 2015

Closing the Gap? Productivity Commission shows how far there is to go (WAtoday.com.au & 5 other sources)

Last week, the Productivity Commission released the sixth annual report of performance assessments for the 'Closing the Gap' targets to address Indigenous disadvantage. These reports were previously produced by the COAG Reform Council, which was abolished by the Abbott government in 2014. However this lamentable decision has delivered an unexpected benefit: the Productivity Commission has produced a report for 2013-14 that is exemplary for its stark findings, forthright criticisms and thoughtful recommendations for future, more productive reporting and evaluations. Click [here](#) for full report.

27 November 2015

Good education and health are mutually reinforcing (National Rural Health Alliance)

It has been said that giving an extra year's education to a teenage mum adds some years to the life expectancy of their child at birth. If this is true it illustrates something about the complex relationship between health and education, and about intergenerational change where health and wellbeing are concerned. There is no more powerful determinant of lifelong wellbeing than the combined role of health and education. Click [here](#) for full article.

This is why you should care about the health of prisoners (The Drum)

If we don't address the failing mental health and untreated addiction of Australia's inmates, the "revolving door" between prisons and the community will continue, writes Toby Hall.

At first glance, today's new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on the health of

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Australia's prisoners paints an encouraging picture. Click [here](#) for full article.

26 November 2015

Close the Gap Campaign renews calls for justice targets (The Close the Gap Campaign)

The Close the Gap Campaign has welcomed an Australian Medical Association (AMA) recommendation for justice targets and justice reinvestment to be included in the Closing the Gap strategy.

The AMA 2015 Report Card on Indigenous Health recommends targets for closing the gap in rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment, and a justice reinvestment approach to fund services that divert people from prison. Click [here](#) for article.

Chronic disease toll shines a light on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health (Heart Foundation)

The Heart Foundation is calling for a renewed focus on prevention and acute care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in the wake of more damning data on chronic disease rates. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report – Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease Australian facts: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people found that in 2011-13, 27% of Indigenous adults had cardiovascular disease, compared with 21% of non-Indigenous adults. Click [here](#) for article.

***WISHING ALL OUR READERS A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.
OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN JANUARY 2016!***

Membership of SDOHA – Renewal period open

Membership pledges are being sought for the 2015-16 financial year. For more information please contact Anne Brown on accounts@phaa.net.au. Full membership is open to organisations that agree with the Alliance's purpose and principles; abide by the Alliance's terms of reference; and consistently and regularly attend Alliance meetings. Individuals can also be listed on the SDOHA website as supporters of the Alliance. Further information is available on the "Who We Are" page of the website at www.socialdeterminants.org.au.

Invitation to contribute to the SDOHA Blog

We are seeking Blog posts – to be published on the website - from member organisations, either commenting on key issues/current events or showcasing work that your organisation is undertaking in relation to the social determinants of health. Please forward Blog posts to Anne Brown, SDOHA Coordinator at accounts@phaa.net.au.

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