

SDOHA

NEWS

23 May 2014

Items for Circulation from Members

Budget 2014-15

On Tuesday 13 May the Australian Government released its 2014-15 Budget. The Budget Papers, along with links to the Portfolio Budget Statements and related documents, are available [here](#).

The 'No GP Tax in our name' Campaign

The campaign asks Australian health and medical researchers and all concerned citizens to take a stand against the Australian Government's decision to fund medical research through the new GP Tax. Interested parties can sign the [petition](#), visit the [Facebook](#) page or use #noGPtax on Twitter.

22nd National Australian Health Promotion and 18th Chronic Disease Network Annual Conference: 4-5 September 2014, Alice Springs NT.

The theme of this conference is Equity @ the Centre: Action on Social Determinants of Health. See the [website](#) for further information.

Anti-Poverty Week: 12-18 October 2014

Everyone is encouraged to help reduce poverty and hardship by organising an activity during the Week or taking part in an activity organised by others. SDOHA will be conducting an activity for Anti-Poverty Week – more details will be provided shortly. See the [Anti-Poverty week website](#) for further information.

Making fair choices on the path to universal health coverage: Final report of the WHO Consultative Group on Equity and Universal Health Coverage

Universal health coverage (UHC) is at the centre of current efforts to strengthen health systems and improve the level and distribution of health and health services. The report addresses the key issues of fairness and equity that arise on the path to UHC. Click [here](#) for the report.

OECD Reviews of Pension Systems: Ireland

This report provides an international perspective on Ireland's retirement income provision for a focused review on the viability and long-term impact of proposed changes in pension policy, taking into account the impact of the economic downturn. Click [here](#) for the report.

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 .

News items of interest

Media items of interest over the past fortnight included:

22 May 2014

Independent Media Centre summary of Indigenous leaders' Budget responses

Click [here](#) for summary.

20 May 2014

Fairer schools for all remains a dream (The Australian Dairyfarmer)

Opinion piece by NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli – a passionate supporter of the Gonski reforms.

Click [here](#) for article.

19 May 2014

Proposed medical research fund is unfair and unethical (The Conversation)

Medical research is a significant winner in the federal budget: we're told, (probably falsely), that the government will establish the largest medical research fund in the world (\$20 billion by 2023). But whether creating this fund is ethical is another matter, says Professor David Hunter. Click [here](#) for article.

Can we learn anything from health care in the United States? (Medical Journal of Australia)

The authors reflect on aspects of the American health care system that Australia and New Zealand would benefit from emulating and aspects that we should avoid. Click [here](#) for article.

16 May 2014

Public Health Experts Identify Militarism As Threat (International News)

Reflections on [article](#) in June 2014 edition of American Journal of Public Health.

14 May 2014

Why the federal budget is bad for health and worse for society (The Conversation and other sources)

Despite government claims that the budget would be fair and all Australians would contribute to the "budget rescue job", reality has not supported these claims. And this is bad news for health and social equity, according to Professor Fran Baum. Click [here](#) for article.

Connecting with Wodonga's vulnerable residents (Liberal Victoria)

A new approach to supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians will expand to Wodonga as part of the Victorian Coalition Government's new Services Connect initiative. Click [here](#) for article.

One-stop shop for vulnerable locals (Bendigo Weekly)

A new approach to supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians will expand to Bendigo as part of the State Government's new Services Connect initiative. Click [here](#) for article.

13 May 2014

The equality debate: Inequality in NZ under spotlight (The NZ Herald)

Two British health researchers - Professors Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett - challenge New Zealanders' unusually high tolerance of what many countries consider a social evil - inequality. Click [here](#) for article.

9 May 2014

Too many people still lack basic drinking water and sanitation: UN report (Herald Globe)

Despite a narrowing disparity in access to cleaner water and better sanitation between rural and urban areas, sharp inequalities still persist around the world, says a new United Nations report. Click [here](#) for report.

Bigger than Game of Thrones: Plans for budget night (Croakey)

Given the lead up we have had over the last two weeks, surely next week's budget is more highly anticipated than the fourth season of Game of Thrones. Click [here](#) for article.

'That is not the kind of Australia that people of good will would be hoping for' (The Catholic Leader)

St Vincent de Paul Society leaders believe many of the recommendations of the Federal Government's Commission of Audit would lead to greater inequality in Australia. Click [here](#) for article.

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