

## NEWS AND COMMENT

### NSW CORONARY HEART DISEASE GOALS AND TARGETS PROGRAM – JULY 1996 UPDATE

The following is an update on Statewide projects funded this calendar year as part of the NSW Coronary Heart Disease Goals and Targets Program:

- A survey instrument for monitoring population *physical activity* (prevalence, knowledge, attitudes, practice) has been developed. A Statewide telephone survey using this instrument and the Medical Outcomes Study Short Form 12 instrument was conducted in June 1996. Results of the survey will be available later this year.
- The Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Westmead Hospital was funded earlier this year to manage the development of a *NSW Nutrition Monitoring Strategy*. This will provide a means of evaluating the implementation of the NSW Nutrition Strategy, and guide routine surveillance in relation to food and nutrition. The project will be completed in mid-1997.
- The *NSW Cardiac Care Survey* – a retrospective survey of management of acute chest pain – is about to begin. A follow-up is planned six months after the main survey. The survey is being managed by the Centre for Biostatistics and Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Newcastle. It will involve all referral and larger district hospitals and a random sample of other hospitals.
- A joint initiative of the National Heart Foundation (NHF) (NSW Division), the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine and the NSW Health Department is the promotion of NHF-developed *acute care guidelines for AMI*. The NSW Health Department has funded workshops in NSW throughout 1996 to facilitate the implementation of these guidelines.
- Wentworth Area Health Service has been funded to pilot a method for identifying low risk patients presenting with chest pain and to monitor patient outcomes. *This Coronary Ischaemia Quality and Outcome Monitoring Project* is due for completion in June 1997.
- South West Sydney Area Health Service is managing the *NSW Cardiac Rehabilitation Policies and Standards Project* within which NSW evidence-based policies and standards for cardiac rehabilitation will be developed. The NHF Cardiac Rehabilitation (phases 1 and 2) Minimum Standards will form the basis of these. This project is due for completion in June 1997. A project to develop quality outcome measurement tools will be funded in 1996-97.
- A survey of NSW cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and physicians will soon be conducted to *investigate current practices and attitudes to referral to cardiac rehabilitation*. The Australian and New Zealand Cardiac Society has agreed to support this survey, which will be completed by October 1996.

Inquiries about these projects should be directed initially to NSW Health Department staff Dr Glenn Close (tel 02 9391 9214, fax 02 9391 9232) or Ms Dianne Kelleher (tel 02 9391 9266, fax 02 9391 9232).

### A NSW HEALTH OUTCOMES APPROACH TO STROKE

A *NSW Stroke Expert Working Group* has been established to advise the NSW Health Department on the development of policies and strategies for system-wide and local Area implementation of an outcomes approach to stroke services and programs in NSW. Updates and developments in this program will be published in the *Bulletin*. For inquiries contact Dr Glenn Close (tel 02 9391 9214, fax 02 9391 9232) or Ms Dianne Kelleher (tel 02 9391 9266, fax 02 9391 9232).

### NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

At the Australian Health Ministers' Conference in Hobart in July, the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Family Services, Dr Michael Wooldridge, outlined a proposal for a new National Public Health Partnership (NPHP).

The partnership would be formed by the major agencies with a direct responsibility for public health in Australia – the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments, the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It is intended that the partnership would provide a framework for collaboration between these agencies and a national infrastructure to support public health work.

The partnership would be responsible for:

- creating a vision for public health at the national level;
- establishing principles to guide policy and practice;
- clarifying roles and responsibilities; and
- establishing national objectives, strategies and performance indicators.

It will focus on areas where it is agreed that national collaboration would be of benefit. The better coordination and integration of national public health strategies, such as immunisation, diabetes and cancer control, is an anticipated benefit. Other areas where a more co-ordinated approach could assist include the development of the public health workforce, the management of information systems and the clarification of legislative frameworks.

Endorsement of the concept of a NPHP by the Ministers of Health and discussion of the proposal by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council will be followed by consultations with key stakeholders to define the structure and operation of the NPHP.

The concept of a NPHP will be considered by the Ministers for Health and discussed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. If the concept is endorsed, key stakeholders will be consulted to define the structure and operation of the NPHP.