

# NEWS AND COMMENT

## PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

**P**ositions have been assigned for the ten public health medicine registrars and two health services management registrars working in Public Health in 1991. Selected positions for the first six months include the Western Sydney, Eastern Sydney, Central Sydney, South Western Sydney, Illawarra and Hunter Area PHUs, and the Epidemiology Branch. Positions for the second six months will be reviewed in April or May.

The public health training program is to be expanded to include non-medical trainees. Accordingly, on January 3 and 5, 1991 the Public Health Division advertised three training positions for health personnel with a commitment to public health who have completed the coursework for a master of public health degree or equivalent. The selected trainees will join existing medical trainees to make up an expanded public health training program offered to people of diverse health backgrounds.

## FAMILY MEDICINE TRAINEES

**D**iscussions have been held between staff of the Family Medicine Practice (FMP) Training Program and the Public Health Division about training opportunities for FMP trainees in PHUs. The FMP trainees will be encouraged to consult with PHU directors about six- to twelve-month part-time attachments to PHUs. Such attachments would promote interaction between general practitioners and PHU staff.

## ADOLESCENCE AND HEALTH CONFERENCE

**T**he Ninth National Behavioural Medicine Conference will be held on campus at the University of Sydney on October 2 to 4, 1991. The conference is being organised by the university's Department of Behavioural Sciences (Cumberland College), Institute of Nursing and Department of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine (Faculty of Medicine).

Abstracts of 150 words should be sent to the program convenor, Behavioural Medicine Conference, PO Lidcombe 2141. Inquiries should be directed to Keith Carter or Carolyn Kaye (02) 646 6333.

## UNIVERSITY OF NSW RURAL COURSE

**T**he School of Community Medicine at the University of NSW is offering a one-semester external course, Rural Health Studies, for country GPs and masters degree candidates in Public Health and Community Medicine. Development of the course, which is available each semester and is in the form of a project and includes a weekend workshop, has been funded by the NSW Health Department. For details, contact the Visiting Fellow in Rural Health, School of Community Medicine, UNSW, PO Box 1, Kensington 2033.

## ENCOURAGING WISE MEDICINE USE

**I**n March, with the help of a grant from the NSW Health Department, members of the pharmacists' self care program will encourage people to be more knowledgeable about the medicines they are taking. This public awareness campaign, known as Med-Aware, will coincide with Senior Citizens Week and will target the elderly and women with young children.

Bags will be distributed through sources including the Sunday Telegraph and pharmacies, and people will be encouraged to put their medicines in the bag and take them to their self care pharmacy for advice on

- what the medicines are for
- whether there are any interactions between the medication or other problems
- whether there are any dosage compliance or understanding problems
- whether the medicines are still any good.

The pharmacy self care program is pharmacist-funded and provides resources for pharmacist counselling. It is independent of any commercial buying group. Pharmacists will provide the consultation and advice free of charge as a community service. The results of the campaign will be monitored and evaluated. For more information contact Meryl Kane at PO Box 162, St Leonards 2065, or on (02) 437 5941.

### PUBLIC HEALTH EDITORIAL STAFF

The Bulletin's editorial advisory panel is as follows:

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Suggestions for improving the reporting of infectious diseases are most welcome.