

Mental Health Intervention Team

July 2008



MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION TEAM COURSE EVALUATION OF PILOT PROGRAM

The Mental Health Intervention Team Course was held over a four day period on six different weeks.

Overall 114 police attended the Mental Health Intervention Training mainly from the three local area commands involved in the pilot, Tuggerah Lakes, Eastern Beaches and Penrith. A cross section of general duties and other relevant staff attended including the Local Area Commander of Penrith, Mental Health Contact Officers from all three pilot sites, and numerous shift supervisors. Each participant was asked to fill out an evaluation of the course and 112 out of 114 were returned. The most popular presentations were Communication presented by Senior Sgt Andrew Layhe, Geriatric Issues presented by Elaine Ford, presentations by Darrin Cowan- CNC for the MHIT team, Jane Randall from

the Schizophrenia Fellowship, the consumer panel and even the role plays were rated highly despite some people having to perform in front of the whole class. Overall the course was rated highly and it seems to be due the quality of professionals from different agencies. The course will continue to be evaluated by Charles Sturt University researchers Vicky Herrington and Dr Isabelle Bartkowiak who will follow up attendees of the course in the field, contact mental health consumers and mental health professionals for a thorough evaluation of the impact of training against the aim of the course. The overall aim is to: reduce risks to Police and mental health consumers by minimising police intervention in non-criminal incidents involving mental health consumers and therefore reduce the time police are taken away from core duties.

UPCOMING MENTAL HEALTH EVENTS

Dementia Awareness
Month
15/9/08.

www.alzheimers.org.au

5th World Conference
Melbourne 2008
10-12 Sept 2008

www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/conference2008

Mental Health Week
6/10/08.

www.mentalhealth.asn.au

World Mental Health Day
10/10/08.

www.mhco.org.au

Conscience &
Consequence: Ethical
Practice in Mental Health
Nursing
Central Coast Leagues
Convention Centre,
Gosford
28/11/08

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#MHIT

WELCOME

Sgt Lara Raymond will join the Mental Health Intervention Team in August bringing her extensive experience as an intelligence officer to the team.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Approx. 1.5% of the population will have an episode of schizophrenia.

More people are diagnosed with Schizophrenia than AIDS, cot death and melanoma combined

It is not a 'split personality.' The word 'schizophrenia' comes from the Greek word meaning 'split' and this is perhaps where the confusion started. However, schizophrenia is a split from reality rather than a split in personality.

Schizophrenia is the most severe of the mental illnesses and can affect all spheres of life, including perception, thought, judgment, mood, drive and ultimately, personality.

People who have schizophrenia are no more likely to be violent than any other group in the community. There is, however, an increased risk of self-harm among people diagnosed.

It occurs in all societies at about the same rate and affects both males and females alike; however, onset often occurs earlier in men than in women

For more Information:

www.sfnsw.org.au

YOUTH DRUG FORUM

By the time this newsletter comes out a second youth drug forum will have been held in Redfern. This event on the 6th August will be a joint project between Souths Cares, part of the Rabbitohs Rugby League Club and NSW Police. The target audience is parents and youths aged 12-18 years of age.

The forum is a hypothetical scenario which is addressed by a panel of experts which includes Dr Adam Winstock, Enrique (Topo) Rodríguez, Dean Widders- South Sydney NRL Footballer, Sgt Wayne Baxter-NSW Police and carer of a child with experience of drug use. The aim is to provide an enjoyable and lively interactive session with audience participation. It is expected that approximately 150 parents and youths will attend from the local Redfern Community. Another further forum is planned for the 9th July in the Bankstown Area.

The first youth drug forum to be run by NSW Police was held in July 2007 at the Maroubra Seals Club. This event was attended by over 200 parents and children. Due to the high interest a further forum will be run in this area.

Its not about telling our kids; don't take drugs! - Its about giving our kids the formation so they can make informed and educated decisions about their own life!"