

PRISM POINTS

What is happening in the PRISM Intervention communities?

It is timely to provide an update about the progress of PRISM in Intervention communities.

Yes it has been happening, very much as discussed during briefings and at the PRISM workshop which many of you attended last year.

It has been complex, difficult, and rewarding, as anticipated, like many projects which are really worth doing.

Community Development Officers are continuing to work with their Steering Committees and further developing and refining the project.

Information kits

The Mothers' Information Kits have been compiled, designed and printed, including local guides for mothers and voucher booklets.

Three pamphlets on mothers' physical and emotional health after childbirth were piloted in the first part of the year. The project officers in each municipality have been working on guides to local services. These were finalised in June, with 12,000 copies of the kit printed in July and now available for distribution to mothers having babies in each of the intervention communities.

Training workshops for GPs and MCHNs

Workshops for maternal and child health nurses were held in each municipality between March and June this year. Feedback from maternal and child health nurses

taking part in the workshops earlier this year has been very positive. A refresher workshop is being planned for early next year.

Training workshops for GPs began in August, and GP advisors have been appointed in all intervention communities.

PRISM local launches

Local launches of the project have been held in seven municipalities during August, with the eighth local launch scheduled for the 16th of September. The PRISM launches have aimed to draw attention to the presence of the project in each of the intervention communities and to launch the information kits being distributed to all new mothers in the communities. The launches have been well attended by local councillors, Steering Committee members, voucher sponsors, health professionals, representatives of community organisations and mothers.

EcoPRISM: progress of organisational survey

The survey of organisational networks in each of the 16 municipalities has been completed and is currently in the process of being analysed. Over 300 organisations participated in the survey, which will play an important role in measuring whether the implementation of the PRISM intervention increases inter organisational collaboration at the local level. The survey will be repeated in two years time and will provide a quantifiable picture of non-health related PRISM effects. The process of undertaking the survey has also provided an opportunity for the research team to better appreciate the challenges facing health and community organisations in the current climate. Any

queries regarding the survey may be directed to Therese Riley on 03 8341 8547

Data Management Update

Creina Mitchell, PRISM Data Manager, has been travelling Victoria to meet with representatives of all 16 municipalities participating in PRISM. These preliminary discussions provided an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the rolling mailout of questionnaires and reminders.

The mailout will be based on notifications of livebirths to women living in each municipality. During the data collection period, questionnaires will be sent out on a weekly basis, along with a cover letter explaining the project and a reply paid envelope for women to return the questionnaire direct to the research team. Two weeks after the questionnaires are sent, each woman will be sent a reminder postcard.

The proposed timelines for data collection are:
Early 2000 Births to mothers

Mid 2000 for 12 months	participating in the trial Data collection six months after birth (main survey)
Early 2002 for 12 months after	Data collection two years birth (sub-survey)

Please do not hesitate to contact Creina if you have any questions about the proposed mailouts. She may be contacted by email on C.Mitchell@latrobe.edu.au or by telephone on 03 8341 8544.

PRISM MILESTONES

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March - June	Maternal and Child Health Nurse Training in all the PRISM Intervention communities
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April - June

Kits developed and finalised,
including the local guide to
services and vouchers

**August - September
July - September**

PRISM Launches
Organisational survey
completed in 8 comparison
communities

August - September

GAPP Training

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If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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