Rural Interprofessional Seminar Series

Supporting Health Education in Remote Areas

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Let's keep Yarning about Genetics

Information about Reproductive Carrier Screening

Presenters:

Bethany Wadling
Assoc Genetic Counsellor

Dr Kath Keenan
Public Health Medical Officer

Edwina Middleton
Genetic Counsellor

When:

Wednesday 30 August 2023
1.30 pm – 2.30 pm (AEST)

Where:

Online
Tickets available via Eventbrite

To Register:

Enquiries:

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Let's keep Yarning about Genetics will provide an overview of reproductive genetic carrier screening, including pre and post counselling considerations and how to access relevant support services and resources.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) now recommends that all couples planning to conceive or who are in early pregnancy receive information about reproductive genetic carrier screening.

Reproductive genetic carrier screening aims to provide couples with valuable insights into their probability of having a baby with an autosomal recessive or X-linked genetic condition. In November 2023, there are scheduled plans to introduce Medicare funding for reproductive carrier testing, with a specific focus on three conditions: cystic fibrosis, spinal muscular atrophy, and fragile X syndrome.

Who should attend?

This seminar offers valuable insights and knowledge for a diverse group of healthcare professionals and individuals committed to promoting better health outcomes within Aboriginal communities and beyond.

Those who would benefit from joining this webinar include:

- Professionals with a keen interest in effectively engaging with Aboriginal patients and community members
- ACCHO Aboriginal health workers and practitioners
- Rural and remote generalists, Doctors in Practice
- Nurse practitioners and registered nurses
- Chronic disease health educators
- Allied health clinicians
- Students pursuing health-related courses
- Aboriginal health professionals
- Community liaisons and advocates for Aboriginal health services.

Learning Objectives

- Increase understanding of the difference between reproductive genetic carrier screening and non-invasive prenatal screening
- Increase knowledge of the upcoming MBS item number to screen for Cystic Fibrosis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Fragile X Syndrome
- Increase understanding of the importance of pre and post test counselling for Aboriginal families
- Increase knowledge of how to access relevant support services and resources

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Guest Speaker Bios

Bethany Wadling
Associate Genetic Counsellor (MHGSA) at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney

Bethany is an Aboriginal genetic counsellor with a particular interest in prenatal genetics. Bethany has previously been involved with Mackenzie's Mission, a nation-wide research study which aimed to determine the evidence for making free reproductive genetic carrier screening available to all couples in Australia who wish to have it. Currently, Bethany works at The Royal Hospital for Women working alongside women and their families to effectively communicate genetic information and empowering them to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. Bethany is dedicated to ensuring the accessibility of health information to all individuals.

Dr Kath Keenan
General Practitioner and Public Health Medical Officer at the AHMRC

Kath has many years' experience working in the ACCHO sector including in the Northern Territory, Queensland, Torres Strait Islands, regional NSW and as the Principal GP and appointed Medical Advisor at Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service. Kath continues to work as a GP in rural Aboriginal communities providing regular outreach clinics with Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service to the Goodooga Community Health Service in Western NSW.

Edwina Middleton
Program Lead - Senior Genetic Counsellor at the Centre for Genetics Education, HETI

Edwina is an FHGSA-certified genetic counsellor, working on developing education and training programs for health professionals at the Centre for Genetics Education. She has been working in the field of medical genetics since 2006, starting as a clinical genetic counsellor in NSW and interstate until moving into an education role in early 2018. Edwina enjoys the variety involved with genomics education and loves being involved in creating education for health professionals which results in improved care. Edwina has been involved in numerous genomics education projects. Her most recent work was a partnership with UNSW GeneEQUAL and NSW Ministry of Health to establish resources on the Centre for Genetics Education website for health professionals working with people with intellectual disability.

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This session is sponsored by the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) working in collaboration with Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AHMRC).

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