

# National Office Report



Welcome to the December issue of our Child and Adolescent Health Care E-news.

Well it's been over a year since our last newsletter. I have to apologise for the very big gap between this issue and our previous newsletter. AWCH has been very busy during the past year and there is plenty of news to share.

First of all, congratulations to Bob Greaves, an AWCH member, who has received a [Medal of the Order of Australia](#). Bob received his award for service to the community through the provision of therapeutic play activities for children in hospital, and to education in January 2007.

For a complete run down of AWCH Activities see [Annual Report](#) for 2006-07.

## AWCH Accommodation



*Before*

AWCH moved into the new AWCH offices at Gladesville on 1 February. AWCH was very fortunate indeed to have the rooms painted by apprentices from TAFE and also to have the floors sanded and polished. A BIG thank you to Rowena Sebastian for undertaking the hard work involved in the move and settling in - national office staff used a bottle of sugar soap in the process! and the place now looks sparkling.



*After*

It is very exciting that for the first time in many years AWCH has been able to hold a number of meeting and events at national office: board and AWCH Youth Advisory meetings, national volunteer week morning tea for AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent Volunteers, and AWCH Library volunteers working bee and thank you lunch.

AWCH would like to thank NSW Health for their support in providing AWCH with the opportunity to be housed in such suitable accommodation which everyone agrees is a beautiful place. National office staff feel it is like a home away from home! If you are in Sydney and get the chance come and visit us -we are always happy to put the kettle on!

## AWCH has a new name and logo

As you know AWCH has been going through a process of restructuring over the last few years. As a final part of the restructure, AWCH launched its new name and logo on 6 August 2007. The name change has enabled the AWCH acronym to be kept - an important symbol representing 34 years of advocacy for children and young people in the healthcare system. and to enhance the philosophy of the Association for the Welfare of Child Health, AWCH has recently changed its name to the Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare. This name change has enabled the AWCH acronym to be kept - an important symbol representing 34 years of advocacy for children and young people in the healthcare system.



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## AWCH Launch

On 6 August, the Parliamentary Secretary for NSW Health, Noreen Hay, launched the Association's new name and logo. The event was coordinated by Harry Whelan, AWCH board and youth advisory member. Special thanks go to Emily Cutler for her pictorial record of the event, Kieran Glasgow for playing his guitar and providing the sound system, and Tom Cutler and Susie Ireland for helping with the catering.



We were very fortunate to be able to hold the launch of the new AWCH and logo at our new premises. Blessed with good weather and great company, the launch was a success and we have had great feedback from those who attended this very special event.

The Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare is very excited about its future direction and work in children's healthcare.

## AWCH Library

The Library has relocated to The Children's Hospital at Westmead and has a new AWCH Librarian, Jillian Rattray.

One of the major initiatives undertaken since Jillian's appointment has been to make the AWCH Library journal index and book catalogue available online. Check it out through the AWCH Library web page at [www.awch.org.au/library.htm](http://www.awch.org.au/library.htm)

Many thanks go to Jillian Rattray, Trish Bennett and Cale O'Bryan for this important initiative. AWCH would like to also thank Marion Steele and Jenny Laverick, who both volunteer their time to ensure the continuation of the AWCH Library service. Their advice and support is invaluable and will ensure that the AWCH Library continues to provide an important service to the community.

## Development of standards for the care of children and adolescents in health services

Draft Standards have been developed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), Paediatrics & Child Health Division together with a group of peak bodies with an interest in child welfare.

- The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS)
- The Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare (AWCH)
- Children's Hospitals Australasia (CHA)
- The Regional and General Paediatric Society (RGPS)
- The Paediatric Emergency Medicine Society of Australia & New Zealand (PEMS)
- The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM)
- The Australian Medical Association (AMA)
- The Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses (ACPCHN).

The draft standards for the care of children and adolescents in health services are now available for comment. The goal of the standards is to ensure that children and adolescents attending health services receive quality care in an environment that is safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Here is the link to all of the relevant information:

[www.racp.edu.au/index.cfm?objectid=1716AA5A-9409-0521-1227068D34A2925B](http://www.racp.edu.au/index.cfm?objectid=1716AA5A-9409-0521-1227068D34A2925B)

## Paediatric Health Conference Gosford

AWCH held a display at the Northern Sydney Central Coast Inaugural Paediatric Conference 'Tiny Voices in a Big World' - exploring the triumphs and challenges of paediatric nursing in the adult dominated setting - in Gosford on 16 February 2007. It was a very successful conference.

One of the presentations was on the TLC Distraction Box Program. The program provides boxes of specifically selected toys to be used by health professionals and parents to distract children (free service), therefore reducing their distress during medical procedures and examinations in hospital. See <http://www.tlcforkids.org.au/services.htm>

Marlene Fox, AWCH member, spoke about the introduction of the clown doctors to the special care nursery and NNICU at Monash Medical Centre in Victoria.



Michelle Taylor, AWCH Youth Advisor, attended the conference and helped man the display. A big thank you to Michelle for braving the 5.30am start and keeping Anne Cutler company in the 'car park' on the Pacific Highway after a water main burst at Turrumurra on the way home!

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season!

Anne Cutler  
Executive Officer