



National Prescribing Service Limited



Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

29 March 2010

Free in-language workshops to help seniors understand medicines issues

More than 150 workshops will be held across Australia over the next three months to help seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds understand medicines use issues.

The workshops will be run in six different languages – Cantonese, Mandarin, Greek, Italian, Arabic and Vietnamese. They have been funded by the National Prescribing Service in partnership with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA) and are being organised by ethno-specific organisations in every state and territory.

The workshops will cover two specific topics - 'safe and wise use of medicines' and 'sleep and ageing'. The 'safe and wise use of medicine' seminar builds on the knowledge gained from a highly successful workshop series run in 2008. The 'sleep and ageing' workshop explains normal sleep patterns, good sleep practices and information about sleep medicines.

"We know that the risk of adverse events increases with the number of medicines people take, and it's further heightened for people with low English proficiency," NPS CEO, Dr Lynn Weekes said.

"The reasons for this include misunderstanding instructions given by a health professional, fear of or resistance to questioning the health professional, and cultural differences, which may include different definitions of what is a medicine."

"Coupled with the fact that 90 per cent of Australians over the age of 65 are taking at least one prescription or non-prescription medicine at any given time, these workshops can prove invaluable for seniors with low English proficiency."

The workshops will be presented in-language by bilingual health professionals using information and materials prepared by NPS and translated by qualified professionals.

Translated resources such as [Medimates](#) and [Medicines Lists](#) will also be available for the workshop participants.

The languages for the workshops have been chosen based on the percentage of people in that community aged over 50 and with low English proficiency.

For more information including workshop dates and times contact Jackie Stephenson, NPS project officer, on 02 8217 8756 or email multilingualqum@nps.org.au

ENDS

Media enquiries to Katie Butt, NPS Media Adviser, 02 8217 8667 or kbutt@nps.org.au

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation for quality use of medicines funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Organisations running in-language education seminars 2010

NSW

Arabic	Arab Council Australia Inc.	02 9709 4333
Chinese	Australian Chinese Community Association of NSW Inc.	02 9412 3488
Chinese	Chinese Migrant Welfare Association Inc	02 9716 0612
Chinese	Chinese Australian Services Society Co-op. Ltd	02 9789 4587
Greek	Greek Welfare Centre	02 9516 2188
Italian	Co.As.It - Italian Association of Assistance	02 9564 0744
Vietnamese	Vietnamese Women Association	02 9723 2022

VIC

Arabic	Victorian Arabic Social Services	03 9309 0055
Chinese	The Federation of Chinese Associations Vic	03 9650 6468
Chinese	Chinese Community Social Services Centre Inc.	03 9898 1965
Greek	Greek Welfare Centre Victoria	03 9486 6588
Greek	Australian Greek Welfare Society	03 9388 9998
Greek	Fronitha Care	03 9495 2308
Italian	CO.AS.IT - Italian Assistance Association Victoria	03 9349 9000
Vietnamese	Australian Vietnamese Women's Association Inc.	03 9428 9078
Vietnamese	Springvale Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association Inc	03 9547 7939

QLD

Chinese	Hong Kong Association of Queensland Inc	07 3216 9366
Greek	Greek Orthodox Community of St George	07 3844 3669
Italian	CO.AS.IT QLD Italian Australian Welfare Association Inc	07 3352 5755
Vietnamese	Diversicare, the community care division of the Ethnic Communities Council of QLD	07 4723 1470

WA

Chinese, Vietnamese	The Chung Wah Association Inc.	08 9328 3988
Italian	Italo-Australian Welfare & Cultural Centre Inc.	08 9228 2220

ACT

Chinese	ACT Chinese Australian Association Inc	02 6244 2419
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NT

Italian, Chinese, Greek, Vietnamese	Council On The Ageing NT in partnership with the Vietnamese Community	08 8941 1004
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SA

Chinese	Overseas Chinese Association	08 8445 1622
Chinese	Chinese Welfare Services of SA Inc	08 8212 2988
Italian	CO.AS.IT. (SA) Inc	08 8165 3755