14. Reports and publications

Peer review journals


Conference presentations


Lester R on behalf of the National Immunisation Committee, August 2004, The national meningococcal C vaccination program, Ninth National Immunisation Conference, Cairns.


Public health bulletins


Communicable diseases training programs/workshops

Gastroenteritis investigation training for environmental health officers
Two 2-day courses were conducted for local government Environmental Health Officers on investigating sporadic cases and outbreaks of gastroenteritis. Staff of OzFoodNet and the ESAC team were involved in the development and delivery of this training program.

Listeria awareness program
Staff of OzFoodNet and MDU conducted eight Listeria awareness presentations for aged care residential facilities and meals on wheels programs around metropolitan Melbourne. The aim of the presentation was to raise the awareness of the risks of listeriosis in the elderly, immunocompromised and those with cancer, AIDS, diabetes and liver or kidney disease, and to provide information on foods that should be avoided due to the possible presence of Listeria.

Health guidelines for personal care and body art industries training
Nine training sessions on the Health guidelines for personal care and body art industries, one in each departmental region, were conducted for Environmental Health Officers of local councils. A total of 207 people attended with 69 out of 78 councils represented. The sessions covered the legislative context of the guidelines and various aspects of the guidelines including sterilisation and cleaning, inspection of premises and risk management.

Mosquito identification & control training course
The department undertook its annual training program for mosquito identification and control in Swan Hill in November 2004. The department has been running these training courses since 1974. The course is open to any employee of council who may deal with issues relating to mosquitoes so that the necessary skills and expertise to investigate and control local problems can be gained. Other groups, such as the Australian Army, also regularly send participants.

Twenty-four participants attended the 2004 course including six officers from South Australia and two from New South Wales. The course addressed the following key areas: public health and mosquitoes, monitoring of breeding sites, species identification, biological and chemical control, environmental management/modification, occupational health and safety and education strategies.

Education sessions for general practitioners
Training was provided to general practitioners in sessions conducted at Sale, Shepparton, Colac, Terang, Warrnambool and Hamilton. Topics varied between sessions and included gastroenteritis, new emerging pathogens (SARS and avian flu), and notification of infectious diseases.

Education session on sexually transmissible infections for secondary school nurses
Training was provided to secondary school nurses employed by the department. Training covered chlamydia and other STIs.

Medical Officers of Health conference
A one-day conference was held in October 2004 for Medical Officers of Health. Twenty-one doctors attended the conference, with sessions covering surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases, Mycobacterium diseases, immunisation, waste water reuse and contact tracing and knowing and reckless legislation. Medical Officer of Health Dr Greg Rowles delivered a session on rubella and measles in adults.
15. Resources

Infectious Diseases Epidemiology & Surveillance (IDEAS)
Aimed at health professionals, the IDEAS website provides information on the prevention and control of infectious diseases, regulations and guidelines, surveillance of infectious diseases and notification procedures. Information about immunisation is available at www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Better Health Channel
www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au
The Better Health Channel provides the community with access to online health related information which is quality assured, reliable, up-to-date and locally relevant.

Health Translations Directory
www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au
The Health Translations Directory provides access to translated health information available online.

Clinicians Health Channel
Provides access to critical knowledge bases for clinicians in the public health care sector in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria. This includes the electronic dissemination of information and access to various electronic resources such as citation databases, drug and prescribing information and clinical guidelines.