

MEDIA RELEASE

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LINKIN Health Census – Talking to Port Lincoln about your health

Following on from last year's health census across Port Lincoln, there has been considerable energy devoted to identifying priority areas by the research team. Key themes have emerged from the Health Census questionnaire.

At the same time, the LINKIN team now starts its program of interacting with the people of Port Lincoln and its service providers on health aspects that emerged as important in Port Lincoln.

A new team member will be conducting this part of the research. Dr Kathryn Powell will be spending time in Port Lincoln and is very keen to share information about the LINKIN project at regional service provider meetings, health and community service staff meetings, and community organisations.

Dr Powell joined a local team member and chief investigator of the study, Professor Jonathon Newbury earlier in July. She is an anthropologist with community research experience concerned with service delivery. The areas she has worked in include youth issues, drug and alcohol misuse, correctional service education, and health service delivery for regional areas, Aboriginal communities, and community engagement programs.

Dr Powell will be contacting as many agencies and individual practices to create many opportunities to Port Lincoln to be included in the research study. At this stage, she will be providing early findings from the Health Census, being available to answer any questions, and is interested in Port Lincoln's concerns or suggestions. A second LINKIN newsletter will arrive shortly in mailboxes. Those Census respondents who gave permission to be re-contacted will also be called upon again. Later in the year people will be brought together to be part of focus groups to address particular points of interest from the study.

Health is affected by many things. Dr Powell says that this research is expansive because it is interested in the supporting factors that help to maintain a community's health. The study places special importance on actively involving the community in understanding what the information is telling us and working through the best responses.

Dr Powell is based at the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, at the back of the Port Lincoln Hospital. You are welcome to contact Dr Powell on telephone: or 8313 1567 or 08 86 47 8108 or email info@linkinhealth.org.au or check the website for all updates on the project (www.linkinhealth.org.au).