



# **“Mental Health Symposium”**

**on schizophrenia**

**a joint initiative between SHARP and MEDSOC**

Commences @ 3:30pm, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2007, 67.107

Guest Speakers include representatives from the Schizophrenia Fellowship, NISAD, Helping Hands, and Light and Hope.

Students attending this event will be given a certificate of attendance. Light refreshments will also be provided.

All attendees will be given a guide for staying mentally fit – written by students for students:

“When the cowpat hits the windmill” – funded by beyondblue: the national depression initiative.

This was launched at the NRHN conference held in Albury of March 2007, and attended by SHARP members.

## ***“What is schizophrenia?”***

Schizophrenia is a mental illness which affects one person in every hundred.

Schizophrenia interferes with the mental functioning of a person and, in the long term, may cause changes to a person's personality.

First onset is usually in adolescence or early adulthood. It can develop in older people, but this is not nearly as common.

Some people may experience only one or more brief episodes in their lives. For others, it may remain a recurrent or life-long condition.

The onset of illness may be rapid, with acute symptoms developing over several weeks, or it may be slow, developing over months or even years.

During onset, the person often withdraws from others, gets depressed and anxious and develops extreme fears or obsessions.