

Continuing Care newsletter

February 2004



Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services framework

To enable Health Services to provide an integrated service that delivers the appropriate patient care, in a timely manner, in the most appropriate setting and at the most appropriate cost a new framework is being developed for Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services (SACS).

The framework encompasses:

- The development of a model of care that will reflect changes in clinical practice and new organisational approaches;
- The consolidation of the SACS funding streams; and
- The development of standardised accountability measures and reporting processes.

Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services (SACS) include:

- Community Rehabilitation Centres
- Home-based rehabilitation or therapy
- Specialist Clinics
(Cognitive Dementia and Memory Services, Continence, Falls and Mobility and Pain)
- Sub-acute outpatient services
- Unassigned Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM)
- Continuum of Care and
- 'Same Day' Rehabilitation Services

These different types of SACS generally operate in isolation as a result of their funding bases and accountability requirements. The Framework is aiming to support a more integrated service. The first stage of the consolidation of funding streams will target a number of the specified block funding grants (for example, unassigned GEM, Continuum of Care). Meetings will be held with Health Services to discuss this process in more detail.

A project brief and terms of reference for this project are available on the Continuing Care website at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/concare.htm

For further information please contact Sue Race on 9616 1331.



Introducing Amanda Bolleter

Amanda joined the Continuing Care team in September last year.

Amanda has a background in social work and before joining the department also worked in the alcohol and drug sector. Her previous roles included counselling, advocacy and policy development. She has also conducted research into community-based prevention and blood borne virus transmission. Amanda's experience with community-based services will help her in this new role.

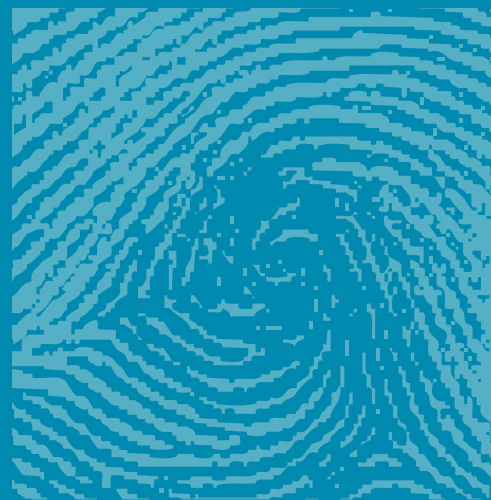
Her position within the team focuses on community-based palliative care services and includes key work on two new projects – Promoting Partnerships in Palliative Care and a review of grief and bereavement services funded by the Department of Human Services.

Promoting Partnerships in Palliative Care is a Commonwealth funded project, which will provide specific recommendations about how to strengthen the hospital-community interface in palliative care.

The review of specific grief and bereavement services will examine how these services may be optimised to strengthen the resilience of the community in dealing with loss, grief and bereavement and to clarify their roles within the wider service system.

For further information on Continuing Care activities go to our website at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/concare.htm

For further information, or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact Coralie Kennedy on coralie.kennedy@dhs.vic.gov.au



Review of grief and bereavement services

What is the best way to strengthen the resilience of the Victorian community to cope with loss, grief and bereavement? This question is the focus of a current review of the four state-wide grief and bereavement services funded by the Department of Human Services.

The aim of the review is to enhance the ability of services to provide grief and bereavement counselling and support across Victoria.

The state-wide services taking part in the review are:

- The Centre for Grief Education
- The National Association for Loss and Grief Victoria
- Community Bereavement Service and
- Mercy Western Grief Service

These organisations provide a range of services which may include direct clinical services, professional and community education, assessment and accreditation of loss and grief practitioners, and information and support for self-help groups.

The Nucleus Consulting Group have been appointed to conduct the project, which will be highly consultative with the state-wide services and other key stakeholders.

The review is due for completion in June 2004.

Further information on the review is available at www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/

Improving care for people with a life-threatening illness

Over 250 people attended workshops to discuss issues and possible solutions in caring for people with a life threatening illness. This information will feed into the strategic framework for improving care for people with a life threatening illness. Two workshops were held in Melbourne and five in rural regions.

The workshops were attended by specialist palliative care providers, general practitioners, local government workers, volunteers, general health care providers from the aged care and acute care sector, and community based providers such as HACC.

Summaries of all the workshops are available on the palliative care website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/strategy.htm>

If you were unable to attend the workshop and would still like to have input to the process, a feedback form (Your views) is also available on the website.

A draft framework will be available for comment in April 2004.

Newsflash newsflash

Sub-acute providers meetings

To build stronger relationships between the department and the field, Continuing Care will be scheduling a series of meetings with sub-acute providers.

The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen dialogue and share data between service providers and with the department.

Continuing Care will be writing to Health Service CEOs in the next month, asking them to nominate 1-2 of their staff from each sub-acute campus to attend. Around 3 meetings will be held over the next 12 months.