

Hospital Admission Risk Program – Better Care of Older People

In February 2007 we were pleased to advise that funding had been provided through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Long Stay Older Patient's initiative to improve the capacity of health services to provide more appropriate care for long stay older patients and to reduce avoidable and premature admissions of older people in hospitals, particularly in rural areas.

The focus of the project was to expand HARP to a number of rural health services that previously had not had the capacity to provide a HARP service.

Thirteen rural health services have taken up the opportunity to trial the Hospital Admission Risk Program – Better Care of Older People (HARP-BCOP) project. They are:

- Bass Coast Regional Health (Wonthaggi)
- Benalla and District Memorial Hospital
- Central Gippsland Health Service (Sale)
- East Grampians Health Service (Ararat)
- Echuca Regional Health
- Maryborough District Health Service
- Mt Alexander Hospital (Castlemaine)
- Seymour District Memorial Hospital
- Portland District Health
- Stawell Regional Health
- Swan Hill District Hospital
- West Gippsland Healthcare Group
- Western District Health Service.

The majority of projects have been up and running for almost 12 months and report positive outcomes for older people with chronic and complex health care needs.

For further information about HARP-BCOP please contact Carol Pyke on 9096 1335 or via email at <carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au>.

Improving care for older people and people with complex needs Scholarships

This Ambulatory and Continuing Care initiative aims to support innovation and improved patient care. To be eligible for the Improving Care for Older People and People with Complex Needs Scholarship, applicants must be employed by a Victorian public health service. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2009.

Scholarships will be awarded as a contribution towards the costs of:

- a study tour
- a placement or exchange
- internal practice-based research to improve evidence-based service development
- a quality improvement project
- a national or international study, course or conference – for presenters and attendees.

In addition to sharing your learning with colleagues, your health service and clinical networks, scholarship recipients will be required to present or submit a poster on their learning at an Ambulatory and Continuing Care event planned for late 2010. Further information will be provided to successful applicants once details are confirmed.

Information and application forms are available from <www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute>.

Improving care for older people and people with complex needs Scholarships

Application close date 31 March 2009
www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute

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Submitting your application

Applications should be submitted to:

Dr Susan Pyke, Director of Ambulatory and Continuing Care
 Victorian Department of Health
 100 Collins Street
 Melbourne VIC 3000

For further information

Phone: 9096 1335
 Email: carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au
 Website: www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute

Improving care for older people and people with complex needs Scholarships

Objectives

The program aims to support innovation and improved patient care.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Improving Care for Older People and People with Complex Needs Scholarship, applicants must be employed by a Victorian public health service.

What sort of professional development activity are applicants undertaking?

Scholarships will be awarded as a contribution towards the costs of:

- a study tour
- a placement or exchange
- internal practice-based research to improve evidence-based service development
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- a national or international study, course or conference – for presenters and attendees.

What does the scholarship funding cover?

Scholarships will be awarded of amounts up to \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000. The funding can cover both research and travel expenses and attendance fees.

Application process

When applying for a scholarship, you will be required to complete an application form and provide a professional endorsement letter from your professional endorsement panel.

Selection process

Once the application period closes, the selection process will be completed and successful applicants will be notified. The selection committee will consider all applications for a study tour, placement or exchange and for a national or international study, course or conference. Successful applicants will be notified of their award by 14 April 2009. Further information will be provided to the successful applicant.

Hospital Admission Risk Program – Assessing Demand and Outcomes

In September 2008, the department commenced a project to assess the demand for and outcomes from participating in HARP service.

The aims of this project are to:

- define the potential number of HARP clients based on the current eligibility criteria
- identify potential HARP clients in Victoria, and by health service
- identify any service gaps in the provision of HARP in Victoria
- identify any service gaps in the provision of HARP in individual health services
- identify if health services are targeting the defined, appropriate HARP population
- provide a method of benchmarking HARP across Victoria
- assess whether funded HARP services are contributing to a reduction in avoidable hospitalisations, ED presentations and length of stay, by funded streams of care (by disease type and service type).

All our 22 HARP services across Victoria responded to our request for data, with the majority of you providing us the data we requested – thank you all!

We are pleased to advise that we have now appointed Megan Bohensky to undertake the mammoth task of data cleaning, analysis and report writing – welcome Megan!

We look forward to introducing Megan to you at the HARP workshop on Friday 27 February 2009 and to sharing some of our preliminary findings.

For further information about the HARP Demand and Outcomes project please contact Usha Mudaliar on 9096 0509 or via email at <usha.mudaliar@dhs.vic.gov.au>.

Aids and Equipment Program redevelopment update

A number of projects are underway following the Victorian Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP) review in 2007. Initial redevelopment projects include:

1. establishing a new governance framework for A&EP
2. developing a new service delivery model
3. developing a new IT system
4. projects to investigate opportunities for integrating the home oxygen and continence products of A&EP with programs that provide clinical and health support to clients.

Service delivery model public consultation update

A number of consultations have been held since the release for the A&EP Service Delivery Model discussion paper in November 2008. So far more than 300 people have attended consultation forums.

Public feedback is being sought on the future direction for the Aids and Equipment Program. Feedback is invited on the new aims and objectives for the program and the preferred options for establishing a statewide service delivery platform for aids and equipment in Victoria.

The Service Model Advisory Group has also been established to provide specialist advice into the development of the preferred service delivery model. Following the consultation period and consideration of submissions, a preferred service model will be determined by the Department of Human Services.

The closing date for submissions for the Service Delivery model has now been **extended to 4.30pm Friday 27 February 2009.**

If you would like to make a submission please feel free to download the discussion paper from <www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/aep> or email <aep@dhs.vic.gov.au> to request a copy.

Home oxygen and continence products projects

A&CC continues to work with Disability Services to examine the capacity to improve outcomes for clients through the integration of home oxygen with HARP and integration of the continence products component with sub-acute ambulatory care services (SACS) continence clinics.

To explore the capacity for integration, service mapping and model of care work within respiratory and continence services has commenced. Further information will be available mid-2009.

The contacts for these projects are:

Home oxygen

Lyndal Hickey
9096 0507
lyndal.hickey@dhs.vic.gov.au

Continence products

Rachel Barton
9096 1390
rachel.barton@dhs.vic.gov.au

A friendly reminder...

The health independence programs guidelines implementation plan 2009 is due for submission by Friday 27 February 2009.

The Ambulatory and Continuing Care Team contact details

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