

- Enhancing the role and function of VPACT.
- Enhancing two-way communication and education between health services and government.
- Contributing expert evidence evaluation to inform statewide clinical service planning and to inform the department's *Medical equipment asset management framework*, which is being developed.
- Developing policy and processes to disinvest health interventions that may not offer any health gain.

The workshop discussion paper and report, which articulates the draft principles, can be downloaded from www.health.vic.gov.au/newtech/workshop.htm.

Any queries regarding the workshop or the department's New Technology/Clinical Practice Program should be directed to Dr Paul Fennessy on phone 9096 2142 or email paul.fennessy@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Sub-acute ambulatory care services equipment review

The Pathways Home Program funding provided by the Australian Government will be used to undertake a review of sub-acute ambulatory care services (SACS) equipment and to upgrade and replace equipment used to deliver SACS across Victoria.

The review will involve two phases. Phase 1 will involve developing a list of equipment required to deliver each SACS service. Phase 2 will involve an independent review of SACS equipment across Victoria against these requirements.

Monash University Centre for Biomedical Engineering (MUCBE) have been appointed as the contractors to assist with the review. During Phase 1 MUCBE will visit a sample of SACS sites to gather information related to SACS service delivery, which will enable the development of equipment requirements. During Phase 2 MUCBE will visit all SACS sites across Victoria to review the equipment currently being used to deliver SACS.

Following the review of equipment, a prioritised list of SACS equipment requiring purchase and replacement will be developed. This will enable funding to be allocated appropriately for upgrading/replacement of old equipment and the purchase of new equipment required to deliver SACS across Victoria.

Minimising functional decline—the next step for *Improving care for older people*

The **Improving care forum** on 4 May 2007 held by the Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development section of the Department saw more than 120 representatives attending, reflecting strong interest from the field.

The aim of this forum was to share information about Victoria's focus on minimising functional decline, a key aspect of the implementation of the Council of Australian Governments Long Stay Older Patients' (COAG LSOP) initiative, and also to seek input to developing the functional decline implementation resource tool kits.

Victoria's implementation of the COAG LSOP initiative builds on both the existing work from the Improving Care initiative as well as the Hospital Admission Risk Program—Chronic Disease Management (HARP-CDM).

Here is a summary of the presentations.

- Susan Race, Manager, Health Independence Programs gave an overview of the COAG LSOP initiative. Victoria's implementation plan has a strong emphasis on minimising functional decline for older people across the state. A key focus of the initiative is the development of the implementation tool kit.

Rural Health Services will focus on minimising functional decline by developing a regional approach to the care of older people. In addition, HARP-CDM will be rolled out to 13 rural Health Services with the focus of reducing hospital admissions for older people with complex and chronic conditions.



Panel presenters



Full house for *Minimising Functional Decline*

- Nicole Doran, Manager, Sub-acute and Transition Care Services talked about the opportunity to build on achievements from the Improving Care initiative, specifically focusing on minimising functional decline. 10 Health Services have been invited as lead sites to develop a specific functional domain area implementation resource- chosen because of their interest and expertise in the particular domain area:

Culture	Northern Health
Assessment	Western Health
Dementia	Ballarat Health Services
Delirium	Melbourne Health
Depression	Southern Health
Mobility	Peninsula Health
Continenence	Austin Health
Nutrition	Bayside Health
Skin integrity	Eastern Health
Medication	St Vincent's Health

- Dr Caroline Brand, Director of the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation Unit at Melbourne Health led the development of the key resource Best practice approaches to minimise functional decline in the older person across the acute, sub-acute and residential aged care settings. She gave a brief overview of the resource and then focused on strategies for implementation and evaluation.
- Five Health Services gave presentations about their innovative approaches to minimising functional decline.
- Karen Bull spoke about how Peninsula Health uses consumer feedback and clinical indicators to inform practice.
- Christine Behm from St Vincent's talked about the 'Chairs' audit undertaken to make the hospital environment more older person friendly.

- Amy Padgham's presentation looked at how Eastern Health is improving care for older people with delirium.
- Keren Day shared Ballarat Health Services' outcomes from implementing the Hospital in the Nursing Home Project.
- Janne Williams from Southern Health spoke about the development of their person-centred charters developed to improve the hospital culture towards caring for older people.

During the afternoon, six workshops facilitated by the domain lead sites enabled participants to share information and provide feedback on minimising functional decline in the following areas: continence, delirium, depression, mobility, nutrition and skin integrity.

Facilitators sought input on a range of issues relevant to the development of the implementation resource. This information will be used to assist and inform the lead sites.

All presentations from the May **Improving care forum** are available on the following website: www.health.vic.gov.au/improvingcare

Conference notice

The way forward: chronic disease self-management in Australia-national conference

26-27 July 2007, Sofitel Melbourne

The Chronic Disease Self-Management in Australia Conference will be held in Melbourne on 26-27 July 2007 at the Sofitel Hotel.

The conference will cover the latest industry developments and research from international and national industry leaders including Professor Anne Rogers, National Primary Care Research & Development Centre, University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

The full program and list of speakers is available from the conference website: www.mcmconferences.com/crd

Registration information can be found via www.mcmconferences.com/crd/registration.html

For further information contact Melbourne Conference Management on phone: 8344 6107 or email: crd2007@union.unimelb.edu.au



Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development contact details

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Lea Pope	Manager, CC & CSD	Lea.Pope@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 2721
Hannah Cameron	Executive Assistant, CC & CSD	Hannah.Cameron@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 2136
Coralie Kennedy	Project Support, CC & CSD	Coralie.Kennedy@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1337

Health Independence Programs

Susan Race	Manager	Susan.Race@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1331
Elisa Tumino	Senior Project Officer	Elisa.Tumino@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1334
Juliet Coles	Senior Project Officer	Juliet.Coles@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 0507
Charlotte Dart	Senior Project Officer	Charlotte.Dart@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1412
John Masci	Senior Project Officer	John.Masci@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 2169
Carol Pyke	Senior Project Officer	Carol.Pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1335

Clinical Service Development

Louise Devereux	Manager	Louise.Devereux@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1348
Greg Dowling	Senior Project Officer	Gregory.Dowling@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 7374
Paul Fennessy	Senior Project Officer	Paul.Fennessy@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 2142
Usha Mudaliar	Senior Project Officer	Usha.Mudaliar@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 0509
Debbie Sudano	Senior Project Officer	Debra.Sudano@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 0510
Cathy Krishnan	Senior Project Officer	Cathy.Krishnan@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1332

Sub-acute & Transition Care Services

Nicole Doran	Manager	Nicole.Doran@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 2689
Sylvia Chen	Senior Project Officer	Sylvia.Chen@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1336
Briony Dow	Senior Project Officer	Briony.Dow@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1394
Carolyn Glover	Senior Project Officer	Carolyn.Glover@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1313
Joan Snyder	Senior Project Officer	Joan.Snyder@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 2027
Tania Cossich	Senior Project Officer	Tania.Cossich@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 0487
Gail Roberts	Senior Project Officer	Gail.Roberts@dhs.vic.gov.au	9096 1338