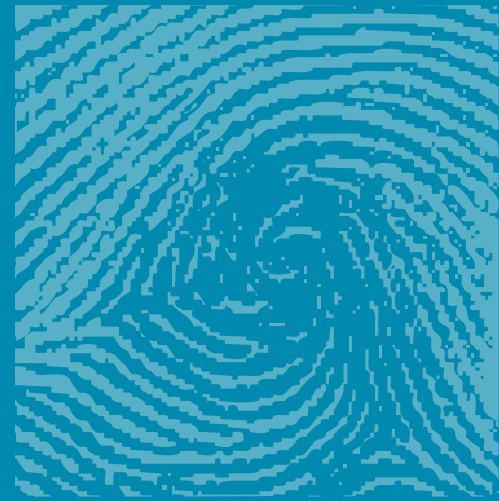


Continuing Care newsletter

August 2004



Cognitive Dementia and Memory Services (CDAMS)–Public information brochure now available in 17 community languages.

CDAMS is a specialist diagnostic clinic that aims to assist people with memory loss, and those who support them. CDAMS provides:

- Expert clinical diagnosis
- Information on appropriate treatments
- Education, support and information
- Direction in planning for the future
- Information on dealing with day to day issues.
- Linkages for clients or their family to other service providers or community supports

In recognition of the diversity of our community, a public information brochure in 17 major languages has been produced. For those wishing to download copies of the brochures please go to the following website:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute/cdams.htm>

Pathways Home gets the nod

The Australian Government is providing one-off funding of \$63 million to Victoria under the Pathways Home Program. This will enable a greater focus on the care and services provided to support the transition from hospital to home under the Australian Health Care Agreements 2003-08. The Pathways Home Program will be utilised to implement the policy Improving Care for Older People.

\$50.4 million for projects proposed under Victoria's Pathways Home Plan was approved in March 2004 and the balance of \$12.6 million was approved in mid July 2004. The total package of \$63 million will be expended under the focus areas of facility expansion and upgrade (\$42 million), improving service infrastructure (\$13.8 million), and workforce development (\$7.2 million).

Of the \$42 million for capital projects, \$24 million will be for the metropolitan area and \$18 million for rural and regional areas. This will enable the expansion and upgrade of 11 community rehabilitation centres and the development of two new centre-based facilities.

[A list of projects approved under the Pathways Home Package is available at http://www.health.gov.au/ahca/pathways.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/ahca/pathways.htm)

A full update of Victoria's initiatives under the Pathways Home Program will be available via the Continuing Care website in the near future.



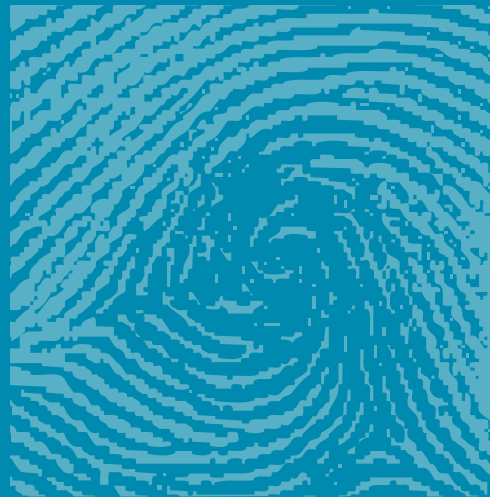
Introducing Brydie Quinn

Brydie Quinn works in the Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services unit. She has worked in the department for over two years, and her most recent efforts have included involvement in development of the Improving Care for Older People policy and projects such as the Innovative Care Rehabilitation Service pilots.

The challenging aspects of Brydie's current role include the progression of programs and strategies to aid Health Services in improving responses to older people's treatment and care needs. This work includes the development of culture change management projects, sub-acute ambulatory care equipment audit and piloting workforce recruitment strategies.

Brydie came to health administration through her hands-on experience in the community care and residential aged care sectors. She has also worked in the Department of Health and Ageing in Canberra, in various areas including the Residential Aged Care Services, General Practice programs and the National Health Priority Areas. She is currently completing her Masters In Public Policy and Management, which she is finding applicable to her work.

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



Comprehensive assessment tool identification update

Over 100 people attended one of two workshops that were held in June 2004 to further progress the identification of a validated comprehensive assessment tool that is client centred and carer inclusive.

The workshops were held as part of a project that La Trobe University are undertaking. The project aims to identify an existing tool that could be applied across service settings to assess the care needs of older people with complex care needs and people with chronic health conditions.

Workshop participants included clinicians from acute, sub-acute, mental health, disability, community and aged care services, professional associations and consumer organisations.

The workshops were structured to obtain the views of participants with regard to the applicability and practicability of the tools under consideration. A summary of the outcomes of the workshops will form a key component of the final report which is currently being prepared.

For further information please contact Belinda Gilsonan on 9616 1313 or email Belinda.Gilsonan@dhs.vic.gov.au

Promoting Partnerships in palliative care

The final report of the Promoting Partnerships project is now available. This Australian Government funded project aimed to explore the key elements needed to achieve good hospital and community integration for palliative care clients. It included a review of the literature and information from consultations with palliative care and other health care providers.

The final report includes recommendations about how to strengthen the hospital-community interface and can be downloaded from: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/partner.htm>

Many thanks to all those who took part in this project.

Staff updates

Sue Race has been appointed to the position of Manager, Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services. Sue has been acting in this role since April 2004.

Michael Bramwell has just commenced with the Palliative Care and Specialist Programs Unit. Michael's main role will be to implement the Strengthening Palliative Care policy.

Sheila Hirst is temporarily working within the Palliative Care and Specialist Programs Unit assisting finalising the Strengthening Palliative Care policy.

Linda Muller recently left our unit to take up a position within the Aged Care Branch. We wish Linda well in her new position.

Website updates

Renal dialysis - For the latest information on the funding policy and targets for 2004-05 and the service provision review go to: www.health.vic.gov.au/renaldialysis/

Policy and Funding Guidelines - 2004-05 guidelines are available at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg2004/index.htm>