

Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development News

August 2005

From the Manager's desk



From the start of July, there have been a number of structural and staff changes within Continuing

Care section. The section will now be called Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development. This reflects the formation of a new Clinical Service Development Unit. This unit will focus on review and enhancement across a range of clinical areas and pulls together work from across the Programs Branch into one unit and will ensure a critical mass of expertise for project planning, management and service development. I would like to welcome the following staff to the unit:

- Kerri Martin—Manager (from Service and Capital Planning)
- Anna McFadgen (from Service and Capital Planning)
- Gillian Smith (from Palliative Care and Specialist Programs)
- Paul Fennessy (from Senior Medical Adviser's Unit)
- Rachel Flottman (from Service and Capital Planning)

Some of the work that is currently being undertaken by the Clinical Service Development Unit includes:

- Development of a Stroke Care Strategy (discussion paper due for release in late July)
- Review of Paediatric Orthopaedic Services in Victoria
- Community Consultation for HIV services (due to commence in August)
- Implementation of recommendations from ENT, Ophthalmology and Renal reviews undertaken in 2004
- The unit will also take on responsibility for the New Technology Program over the next 3 months.

The Sub-acute ambulatory Care unit has also expanded its portfolio to include the addition of the Victorian Chronic and Complex Care Program (VCCCP). Under the management of Sue Race, the unit has been re-named Health Independence Programs. We welcome Paul Williamson, Catherine Lavars and Zoe Austin-Crowe to the team from the Access and Metropolitan Performance Branch. While the key priority for this unit will be the mainstreaming of HARP into the VCCCP, it will continue its ongoing program development work in relation to Centres Promoting Health Independence and implementation of the SACS framework, in line with the Improving Care for Older People Policy.

Continued next page

Important date for your diary

Provider Forum:

'Best practice approaches to minimise functional decline'

Friday 2 September 2005

10.15am – 3.00pm
Department of Human Services
Conference Room A & B
Level 12/555 Collins Street, Melbourne

Register your attendance early to ensure your place at this interactive forum sharing best evidence approaches to minimising functional decline and improving care for older people, as referred to in this newsletter.

These forums (formerly known as Sub-acute Provider Forums) are provided free of charge by the department, and lunch is provided.

This forum is limited to 100 participants so we suggest you register early.

RSVP by 26 August to: Carol Pyke

(03) 9616 1335

carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au

Manager's desk continued

The Sub-acute In-patient Unit, under the management of Simon Moy will have a major focus over the coming year on the implementation of the New Transition Care program that is jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. In addition the review of the Victorian Respiratory Support Service will be completed and work will continue in a range of other areas relating to transition strategies for complex clients.

Other changes include the move of Palliative Care to the Cancer unit, forming Cancer and Palliative Services. We therefore say 'good-bye' and thank you to Michael Bramwell, Amanda Bolleter, Sheila Hirst and Greg Dalton as they move across to this unit. Jackie Kearney takes on the management responsibility for Palliative Care with this change. And finally, as many of you will be aware, we said a sad farewell to Vivien Adler at the end of June as she left the Department to start a new career.

So the new financial year heralds in a number of changes. I am excited by the changes and the new challenges for the section. The staff is enthusiastically taking on the new structure and their new roles. Our focus remains working with the field, developing policy and enhancing programs to improve the services and care delivered in the community.

Lea Pope
Manager, Continuing Care & Clinical Service Development

New resources create better outcomes for older people

The Care of Older Australian Working Group (COAWG), a national group established by the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC) recently released resources for health and aged care practitioners to support client care.

Best practice approaches to minimise functional decline in the older person across the acute, sub-acute and residential aged care settings. Developed by the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation Unit, Melbourne Health.

The manual identifies all relevant guidelines, systematic reviews and randomised control trials, current at the time of publication that health professionals and carers should consider when managing the older person.

A guide for assessing older people in hospitals. Developed by the Centre for Applied Gerontology, Bundoora Extended Care Centre, Northern Health.

The manual is a practical resource assisting medical, nursing and allied health professionals working within a hospital setting who have older people in their care. The information in this guide is based on an extensive review of the literature and interdisciplinary expert opinion.

The guide might also be a suitable resource in hospital emergency departments, outpatient clinics and hospital-based community outreach programs. Much of the guide can also be applied to the assessment of older people in ambulatory, community and residential care settings.

These documents can be downloaded from the Department of Human Services website at www.health.vic.gov.au/acute-agedcare

For ease of downloading, Quick Guides are also provided separately. We will be distributing these resources to Health Services in the near future.

For further information contact Nicole Doran on (03) 9616 2689 or email on nicole.doran@dhs.vic.gov.au

New Technical Specifications for SACS MDS

Section 5 of the Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services Minimum Data Set Manual 'Generation and Transmission' is now available. This section is targeted at Health Service IT/IM support staff and software vendors. It provides specifications for construction the HL7 batch files that will be used to submit SACS MDS data to the Department.

The SACS MDS Manual can be found at:

www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute/sacs/manual.htm

Minister Jennings supports better hospital dementia care and management



(L to R): Alison Dalziel, Meredith Theobald, Minister Gavin Jennings, Mark Yates, Ian McIntyre.

The Honourable Gavin Jennings, Minister for Aged Care, recently applauded the efforts of dementia health professionals. He also encouraged our health system to continue to 'skill up' to better meet the needs of older people, one of our health services' key client groups.

During July's Sub-acute Providers Forum attended by more than ninety people, Minister Jennings launched Dementia Care in Hospitals. Key findings and ideas from the evaluation of four projects and noted that dementia carers within hospitals will need enhanced skills to better manage this condition as its incidence escalates.

Copies of this document can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare

July's forum, 'Dementia Care and Management in Hospitals', also provided an opportunity for four projects funded by the department to be presented to the field.

Peter Foreman from the Lincoln Centre for Ageing and Community Care Research presented his evaluation of all the projects. Areas of evaluation included organisational change, staff attitude and knowledge and carer satisfaction.

Conclusions from the projects concur that dementia care in hospitals required executive commitment, cultural change, education of clinical direct and non-direct care staff and engagement of carers in care.

Setting the scene about the growing incidence of dementia, Lynette Moore, Executive Director Alzheimer's Australia Vic, presented an overview of recent research by Access Economics on the estimates and projections for the incidence of dementia in Victoria. The report can be found at www.alzheimers.org.au/access2005. Her presentation flagged that caring for people with dementia will be an increasing component of health care professionals' work across all sectors.

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service's, Elizabeth Bell, presented the results of a review of admission and assessment forms, ensuring better identification of cognitive impairment.

Ballarat Health Services introduced a Cognitive Impairment Identifier (CII) alert. Dr Mark Yates, who presented the outcomes of the project, indicated that when a range of hospital staff used the CII alert, client care was improved.

A consortium of health services in the Gippsland Region developed a train the trainer program for dementia education. Maria Rodda of Latrobe Regional Hospital noted a reduction in referrals to mental health services resulting from improved education and training. Carer, Elizabeth Fenwick relayed her experiences prior to and after initiatives in the hospital involving carers and reported that the training enhanced the quality of her experience.

Bernie McCarthy presented the results of the project undertaken by Southern Health that used health professionals from the aged care sector as mentors.

The Forum provided the opportunity to share knowledge from the projects with the field, an activity that will be further enhanced in the future through vehicles such as Centres Promoting Health Independence.

Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development together with the Aged Care Branch orchestrated the Forum.

Copies of the presentations are available via the following website link www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute/forums.htm.



(L to R): Elizabeth Fenwick, Maria Rodda, Minister Gavin Jennings, Elizabeth Bell, Mark Yates, Bernie McCarthy, Peter Foreman.

Future Forum Dates:

Friday 2 September 2005: Minimising functional decline in the older person.

Friday 11 November 2005: Best practice in person centred health care

Enquiries about the Forums can be directed to Carol Pyke on (03) 9616 1335 or via email at carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au

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