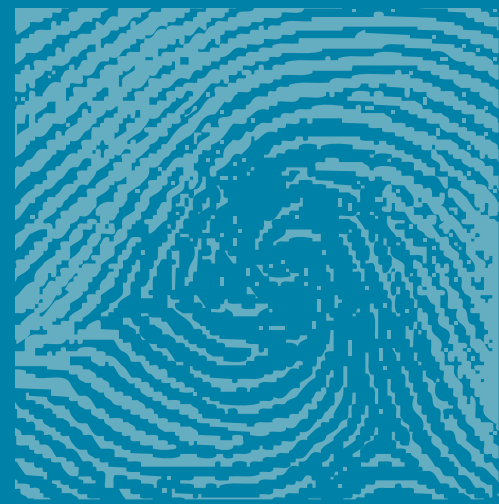


Continuing Care newsletter

October 2004



New funding to Grief and Bereavement Counselling

Broader access to grief and bereavement counselling services will be available through the allocation of \$480,000 of new State funding recently announced by the Minister of Health, the Hon Bronwyn Pike MP. This funding represents the first step in implementing the recommendations of the Grief and Bereavement review.

The Grief and Bereavement review found that most people managed grief and bereavement using natural social supports. Those who did need counselling or other support were accessing it through community health services, generalist health and welfare workers and private practitioners.

The review found evidence of a high level of unmet demand for grief and bereavement counselling, especially in country Victoria. It also identified duplication of roles within the four funded grief and bereavement services in the areas of information, education and training.

Key recommendations from the Grief and Bereavement Review included:

- The development of a future directions policy for grief and bereavement services
- Better support for universal services, such as community health services, to provide counselling
- That a new entity be created to provide specialist resourcing and support such as information, training, professional advice and secondary consultation to facilities already providing such help.

Currently, the Centre for Grief Education, the National Association for Loss and Grief, the Community Bereavement Service and the Mercy Western Grief Service share \$870,000 in departmental funding.

New funding of \$430,000 will be provided to community health services to expand their counselling programs. This funding will be allocated based on local needs and existing services. Additional funding of \$50,000 will also be provided to the new entity to assist with establishment costs.

Continuing Care would like to thank the many stakeholders in the grief and bereavement field who took part in the consultations for the review and the four specialist grief and bereavement services for their active participation in determining the outcomes of the review.

For further information please email Amanda Bolleter on amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au



Introducing Michael Bramwell

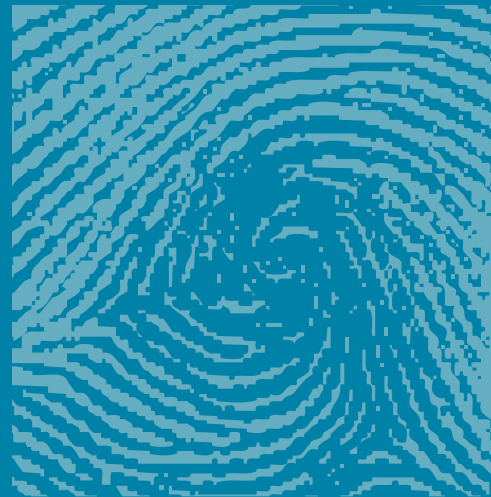
Michael joined the Unit in August as the principal Project Officer for the implementation of the Strengthening Palliative Care policy. Michael is also responsible for the Day Hospice pilot projects.

Prior to joining the department, Michael worked for The Cancer Council Victoria as the Cancer Support Network Manager. His responsibilities included management of the Cancer Connect program, Cancer Support Groups and the Living with Cancer Education Program for health professionals.

Previous to this, Michael was employed as the HIV Palliative Care Social Worker for the HIV Consultancy based at The Alfred. Besides his social work qualifications, Michael also has a Masters in Public Health.

Michael works Monday to Thursday with Continuing Care and Fridays as a counsellor at the Bouverie Family Therapy Centre.

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



Sub-acute forums– Victorian Health Services share data

The final sub-acute provider forum for the year has been confirmed for:
Tuesday 30 November 2004.

Clinicians and managers from Victoria's sub-acute services came together for the August Sub-acute Provider Forum.

The forum began with presentations on Victoria's Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services (SACS), including an update on

the Evaluation of Home Based Rehabilitation that is currently being finalised by the National Ageing Research Institute. This was followed by a thought provoking presentation on stroke care by St Vincent's, which prompted interesting discussion between forum participants.

Data on stroke diagnosis was presented to the group. Metropolitan and rural sub-acute care providers then had the opportunity to discuss issues arising, share good practice and brainstorm possible improvements.

The day concluded with presentations on activities happening at the national level and linked the work of Victorian Health Services to the Australian health care agenda.

Presentations and the forum evaluation will be available on the Continuing Care website shortly.

Please contact Brydie Quinn, via email at brydie.quinn@dhs.vic.gov.au if you are interested in attending future forums.

On 12 November, Gavin Jennings MLC Minister for Aged Care, will launch the next phase of implementation of the Improving Care for Older People policy. Chief Executive Officers and key staff from Health Services nominated as having Centres Promoting Health Independence will be invited to attend this briefing session. Further details will be available shortly.

Standby by for a bumper November edition

With a number of key initiatives poised for completion and publication, the November newsletter is sure to be packed with lots of information and news. Standby to hear further about the renal dialysis service provision review, the comprehensive assessment tool project, launch of the Strengthening Palliative Care policy, release of the final report for the Grief and Bereavement review, the final report on the evaluation of a Minimum Data Set for Victorian Falls Clinics, and updates on the Day Hospice Pilots and the PEPA program.