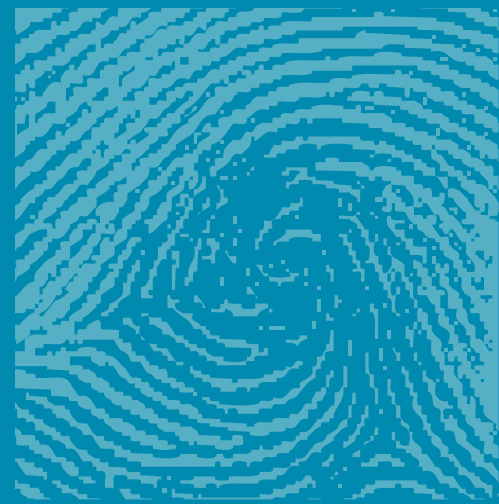


Continuing Care newsletter

November 2003



Welcome to Continuing Care

Welcome to the first edition of the Continuing Care newsletter. Its purpose is to provide another forum to communicate with people in the field as well as in our regional offices. We are conscious of the fact that we are working away here at Level 10, 589 Collins Street (did you know that is where we are now?) and many people are unaware of the projects and other work being undertaken.

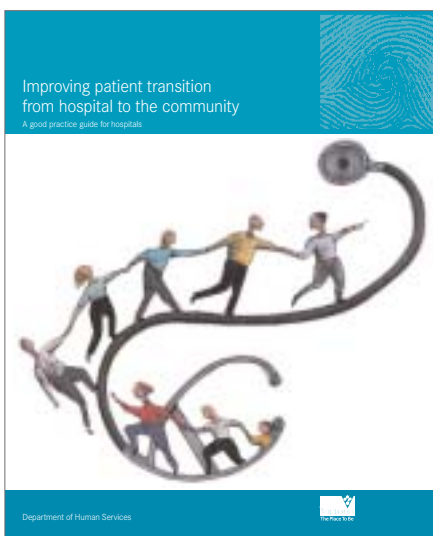
Continuing Care came into being with the restructure of the Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Services Division. Staff are pleased with the name as it identifies the approach underpinning our work. We have developed a [vision and mission statement](#) which will guide our work over the coming years.

The newsletter will be produced monthly so that we can keep you up to date with issues and activities as they happen. We hope that you will register to receive this newsletter as a regular email. We will be seeking your feedback and ideas in the future about what else you would like included in it. Our [website](#) is also being upgraded to make it easier to find your way around, and we will use it to provide information about our projects, publications and events.



*Janet Laverick,
Manager, Continuing Care*

Janet Laverick



Good practice guide for transition planning

A guide for good practice in transitioning patients from hospital to the community has been developed. It is a resource tool for hospitals wanting to further improve their transition practices and procedures. The guide is presented in a simple, easy-to-use format containing up to date evidence of good practice in patient transition with tips and information resources for hospitals.

Health Services have had significant involvement in the content of this guide. The guide provides practical advice in areas such as improving communication with patients and family members and providing increased support to the patient on returning home, thus improving health outcomes for patients. Hospitals will benefit by reduced re-admissions, improved patient flow, and increased patient and staff satisfaction.

Improving patient transition from hospital to the community: a good practice guide is available on the Effective Discharge Strategy website: www.health.vic.gov.au/discharge



Have your say in services for the terminally ill

Continuing Care is currently developing a framework of improving and integrating services for people with a life threatening illness in Victoria that includes key priority areas for 2004-2009.

A working group with broad representation from the field began meeting in May 2003. They have identified key issues and potential solutions to improve services. Service providers, carers and volunteers will participate in regional workshops during November and December on the following dates:

Further information is available on the palliative care website at:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/index.htm>

If you have an enquiry about the content of the workshops, please contact Leonie Scott on 9616 2114 or email at leonie.scott@dhs.vic.gov.au and to register attendance at one of the workshops, please see details below.

Location	Date	Time	Contact
Traralgon	13 Nov 2003	11am-3pm	Laurice Ryan Gippsland Regional Office Tel: 5177 2566
Benalla	19 Nov 2003	11am-3pm	Jenni Gaskett Hume Regional Office Tel: 5722-0914
Bendigo	21 Nov 2003	11am-3pm	Nerissa Oughtred Loddon Mallee Regional Office Tel: 5434 5527
Camperdown	25 Nov 2003	11am-3pm	Anne Fairbairn Barwon South Western Regional Office Tel: 5226 4661
Ararat	27 Nov 2003	11am-3pm	Colette Bacash Grampians Regional Office Tel: 5333 6031
Noble Park	2 Dec. 2003	9.30am-12.30pm	Gail Higgins Tel: 9213 2042
Ivanhoe	4 Dec. 2003	9.30 am-12.30 pm	Dina Theodoropoulos Northern Regional Office Tel: 9412 2672
			Or Bridget Monro Western Regional Office Tel: 9275 7298

Three day hospices funded

Three day hospices have been funded in Victoria: Calvary Health Care, Bendigo Health Care Group, and Mercy Western were selected from twelve submissions to pilot these day care services for patients with a life threatening illness. Day hospices will help terminally ill people and their families deal with the issues relating to their illness and will relieve social isolation and provide respite for carers.

This project will be conducted over an 18 month period and will be evaluated to determine their effectiveness. Further information and progress reports will be available on the website at: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare.

Minister approves interim care guidelines

The Minister for Aged Care, Gavin Jennings MLC, has approved the release of Interim Care guidelines, which identify the target group for the program, the eligibility criteria and recommended models of care. The guidelines were developed by an advisory group, including representatives from a number of Health Services which operate Interim Care.

The document will be used to guide the operation of funded Interim Care programs and services that operate without direct Interim Care funding. For further information regarding the program, including funding and recall, please refer to the Victoria - public hospitals and mental health services policy and funding guidelines 2003-04 or contact Simon Moy on 9616 2169.

The guidelines are available at: <http://subacutecare.health.vic.gov.au>