

Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development News

December 2005



Improving access to ophthalmology services

The Victorian ophthalmology service planning framework (October 2005) is now available. The framework was developed in response to the Metropolitan Health Strategy (2003) that identified a need to develop clear strategies for the delivery of ophthalmology services. Nine key recommendations are outlined to improve service access, distribution and capacity.

Nearly half a million Australians have impaired vision. The prevalence of vision loss trebles for every decade of life after 40 years of age. Forecasts show that the ageing of the population will cause eye disease to double by the year 2020. Three quarters of visual impairment, however, can be prevented or treated.

The framework, including the discussion and consultation papers are available at www.health.vic.gov.au/ophthalmology

Post Acute Care Program Review

The Department has recently undertaken an internal review of the Post Acute Care (PAC) Program to examine its current role and to identify any potential areas for improvement. The review led to the development of a discussion paper examining current issues for the PAC program.

As part of the ongoing review we would like to seek feedback from a broad range of stakeholders on the current role and future directions for PAC services. If you make referrals to PAC, provide services on behalf of PAC services, receive referrals from PAC or have other interests in the PAC Program, we would welcome your contribution to the review. A survey has been developed about key issues raised in the discussion paper. Both the survey and the discussion paper can be accessed at www.health.vic.gov.au/pac

If you have any questions about the review, please contact Carol Pyke on 9616 1335 or via email: carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au

The closing date for completion of the review survey is **Friday 16 December 2005**.



Introducing Catherine Lavars

Catherine joined the Department in April 2003. Her primary role since joining the Department has been project managing the evaluation of the Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP). Until 30 June this year HARP was located in the Access and Metropolitan Performance Branch and on 1 July was transferred to Continuing Care and Clinical Services Development as part of the mainstreaming of HARP.

Catherine has training in nursing and psychology. Prior to commencing in the Department she has worked in clinical and management roles. The areas she has worked in are ACAS, Community Palliative Care, Acute Care and in areas that address the acute/community interface.

Catherine has a Masters in Public Health. She is particularly interested in the pragmatic and timely use of evaluation in the public sector.

A snapshot of the Victorian Public Service Graduate Recruitment Scheme

My name is Simonne Wood and I am working in the Clinical Service Development Unit for four months as part of the Victorian Public Service Graduate Recruitment Scheme (GRS). The GRS is a 12-month development program, where graduates work for four month placements in three different departments within the Victorian Government.

Currently, I am working on a project to determine state wide clinical service planning priorities for the next three years, and I am also responsible for the finalisation of the Victorian ophthalmology and ENT service planning frameworks. Prior to this placement, I worked in Vocational Education and Training in the Department of Education and Training, and the Commercial and Infrastructure Risk Management Group in the Department of Treasury and Finance.

I joined the graduate program to gain exposure to a diversity of areas in government. I am also a member of the Graduate Recruitment Alumni Scheme Professional Development Committee, which organises seminars on a variety of public sector issues for alumni members.

On completion of my graduate year, I will return to my home placement in the Department of Education and Training. One of the most positive aspects of the year for me has been developing a network of people across the public service and learning about a diverse range of areas.

Demonstration Workshop

Coordinated Healthcare

INTER-RAI

RAI-HC

Residential Assessment Index – Home Care

The RAI-HC is an internationally developed, comprehensive assessment that the Department of Human Services has identified as the preferred tool for assessment. Significant consideration is being given by DHS to developing this tool throughout the state. This workshop offers the opportunity to see a demonstration of this tool in an electronic format. The presentation will be by the Care Coordinators from Coordinated Healthcare, who have used the tool for the past five years.

More information: www.interrai.org/www.interrai-au.org

Cost: Free

Date: Thursday 16th February 2006

Time: 1pm to 4pm

Venue: Level 12, 555 Collins Street, Melbourne.

RSVP: Coralie Kennedy
coralie.kennedy@dhs.vic.gov.au
Ph: 9616 1337

By Thursday 9th February 2006 – places limited.

Seasons Greetings

All the staff in the Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development section would like to wish you all the best for the festive season. We would like to thank all of those people who have supported us in our work throughout the past year. Hope you have and a safe and healthy New Year and we look forward to working with you all next year.

Look out for our first newsletter for 2006 in early February.