

Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development News

December 2006

Thank you for a rewarding year

We would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution that has been made by Health Services to a number of key program areas during 2006.

There have been many significant achievements of which the following is only a small sample:

- The final evaluation of HARP was completed and the public report released in September. HARP has demonstrated significant achievements with improved patient health outcomes and reduced hospital utilisation.
- The Transition Care Program – a joint state and commonwealth initiative – is up and running across the metropolitan area and one regional centre and will expand to other regional centres during 2007.
- The Improving care for older people policy was launched in 2003 and a number of projects undertaken to implement this policy direction have come to fruition during 2006 – including the completion of the person-centred care literature review, the implementation of the Enhancing Practice Program and the development of the Environmental Audit Tool.
- A Stroke Care Strategy has been completed in partnership with the sector and it is anticipated that this will be released early in 2007.
- VINAH – the Victorian Integrated Non Admitted Health Minimum Dataset – is a dataset that has been under development for a number of years and is based on HL7 batch messaging – now holds live data. In the future this dataset will hold client level data for the majority of the non-admitted services delivered by hospitals in the community setting.

Provider forums

Six provider forums were held during 2006, with approximately 900 people attending these events during the year. The Provider Forums were divided into Improving Care and Health Independence Program forums.

Improving Care forums focused on:

- Assessing Older People
- Person-centred Healthcare
- Improving Care for Older People in Acute Hospitals
- Improving Care – celebrating three years of achievements

From all of us in Continuing Care & Clinical Service Development best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to working with you again during 2007.



Health Independence Program forums focused on:

- Supporting Improvements in the Delivery of Services
- Self-Management

Presentations covered a vast array of topics and speakers included Minister Gavin Jennings, formerly the Minister for Aged Care, A/Prof Michael Dorevitch, Director of Medical Services, Bundoora Extended Care Centre and Janet Wood, Chair, Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Victorians set the scene of each forum. In general, the focus of the presentations was to provide the audience with practical insight into improving the experience of clients through the health care system.

The afternoon workshops consisted of discussion and information sharing between health service representatives. These discussions provided the opportunity for cross fertilisation of ideas between health services and program areas.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted the value of the information and the networking opportunities.

Dates have been set for Provider Forums in 2007 and are:

- Feb 9th
- March 23rd
- May 4th
- June 15th
- August 3rd
- September 7th
- October 19th
- November 30th

The topic for the first forum in 2007 is Using information and data to support good practice. Further information regarding the forum will be provided in the New Year.

What's happening in 2007

- The COAG Long Stay Older Patient's initiative will provide an additional \$31 million over the next 4 years. Victoria's plan for this initiative will focus on improving the capacity of Health Services to provide more appropriate care for long-stay older patients in public hospitals and reducing avoidable or premature admission of older people to hospitals particularly in rural areas.
- The department will work closely with the sector to develop planning benchmarks for sub-acute services.
- The Transition Care Program will continue to be rolled out across the state with particular focus on regional services in 2007.
- The HARP Chronic Disease Management Service will continue to be strengthened – with a stronger focus on the improved management of people with diabetes and people with psychosocial needs.
- A strategic framework will be developed for the future implementation of the New Technology Program.
- The development of an integrated model for HIV/AIDS services.

From all of us in Continuing Care & Clinical Service Development, best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to working with you again during 2007.



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**