



The Regional Plan:

Our regional priorities.

In this edition we will look at the fourth priority in the Regional Plan. A priority we in the process of focusing on for 2007

Priority 4: Education and Training.

Our plan identified the need to create collegiate relationships with universities, peak bodies and closely liaise with member organizations to address the education and training needs of the region. A focus on recruitment, retention and succession planning supported by ongoing professional development opportunities was highlighted in the regional plan.

What have we been doing to address this?

To date we have established a variety of strategies including:

- Incorporating ongoing education and professional development as a priority for 2007.
- Exploring the potential for providing a regional approach to orientation, mandatory training and professional development.
- Developing a consortium website that will incorporate community education and member e-learning opportunities.
- Establishment of an Education and Training Focus Group for the region.
- Exploring the potential for providing secondment opportunities across sites for staff within the region.
- Scoping potential for staff to 'act up' in senior roles on a regular basis to aid with succession planning.
- Exploring sponsorship and scholarship possibilities for the region.

Next issue: Priority 5

PCCR is a reality!

After months of hard work developing, testing and evaluating the Palliative Care Clinical Referral tool, the evaluation is finally complete and the results submitted to DHS.

The results of the evaluation were predominantly favourable with the major negative being nothing to do with the PCCR, but mostly around inability to autopopulate information from client management systems and lack of connectivity between the two major IT providers in our region. It is hoped that this will over time be addressed on a statewide level and that the introduction of Health Smart will assist with the process.

Regarding the PCCR itself, some small modifications have been made to the original format to remove some duplication with the 2006 SCTT version, and to improve the categories of Psychosocial and Spiritual Care.

In the next few weeks the revised version of the PCCR

will be circulated throughout the region with an outline of the changes and the new templates.

If you would like to read the full Evaluation document, please let me know and I'll send you a copy, however all of the Management Group members have copies, so these can be accessed in your workplace from your Management Group representative.

I know I've said this many times, but the development of a generic PCCR is an outstanding initiative that has only been made possible by the dedication of the members of the Clinical Committee who committed enormous amounts of time and energy to the project. Additionally the time and effort of Kym Thompson, the Project Officer, ensured that the final template met formatting and technical requirements that will enable us to pursue inclusion of the template in the next version of SCTT.

Palliative Care Volunteers

The Volunteers in Palliative Care Seminar will be held on 23rd May at the Veneto Club in Bulleen.

The seminar is entitled 'Learning, Loving and Laughing' as the theme this year is the role of humour in Palliative Care.

This biennial event sees volunteers from country and metropolitan palliative care services gather to share with each

other their experiences and accumulated wisdom. This year they will also explore innovative ways of 'lifting the spirits' as a means of improving physical and mental health. Between 250 and 300 volunteers are expected to attend. Kevin Larkins, Executive Director of Palliative Care Victoria will welcome volunteers from all over Victoria. Special guest speakers for the day are Doreen Akkerman from the the Cancer Council's Cancer Information and Support

This is your Newsletter

Please be involved!

Contact Molly Carlile: molly_inv@bigpond.net.au with your comments, articles and questions. Title your email CLINI-

The next step involves liaising with DHS to further the project and to work with the Service Coordination Unit to meet their requirements.

9th National Palliative Care Australia Conference.

August 28-31

Don't forget that registrations for the conference to be held in Melbourne are now open. You can register online via:.

www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007

Service, Rev Howard Langmead and Dr Tickle from the Humour Foundation. Coordinators of Volunteers in Palliative Care in Victoria meet quarterly at the office of Palliative Care Victoria. The organizing committee is as always indebted to PCV for their invaluable assistance. Contact: Shirely Lee at Mercy for more info.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS!

Do you have a photo from an activity conducted in your organisation? Do you want to promote an upcoming education session? Do you have a symptom management issue you want explored? Please send for inclusion in the next edition.

Authorised Provider of Endorsed Courses

APEC



In February I completed the Royal College of Nursing Australia "Authorised Provider of Endorsed Courses (APEC)" training. This now enables me to endorse courses and activities developed within the region and to allocate CNE (Continuing Nurse Educations) points to educational activities.

In order for an activity to be endorsed it needs to meet certain standards and criteria. The benefit of endorsement is that nurses who attend the activity are allocated CNE points and the endorsement entitles the program to carry the RCNA logo and be advertised on the RCNA website.

Endorsement is a cornerstone of the RCNA Lifelong Learning Program (3LP) which provides a range of benefits for both members and non members of RCNA. In the next edition I will provide more information on 3LP but for further information on endorsement, please contact me. For more information on RCNA activities visit the website www.rcna.org.au

ACES host regional representatives.

On a sunny day in March representatives from the region enjoyed a fantastic BBQ at the Aboriginal Community Elders Service in Nicholson Street, hosted by the staff of ACES, VACCHO (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation) and VAHS (Victorian Aboriginal Health Service). We were treated to kangaroo steaks, rissoles and snags, salads and more importantly food for our mind and spirit.

We had a tour around the facility which included an introduction to the Cultural Centre and the hostel. An afternoon spent sharing stories and experiences went a

long way to furthering the relationship between the consortium and the local indigenous community. The day concluded with the meeting of the consortium Koorie and Torris Strait Islander Focus Group.

The inclusion of a full day at the national conference on Indigenous Palliative Care gives us all an opportunity to further our friendships and build new relationships with indigenous health workers and representatives in our region and provides a real opportunity for us all to share our experiences and learn about indigenous heritage and culture.

Indigenous Palliative Care Project

The Indigenous Palliative Care Project came about through the funding from the Commonwealth government and the development of a resource kit (Indigenous Palliative Care Resource Kit). The Victorian Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) was approached to undertake a project, the result of which allowed Aboriginal Health Workers and specialist palliative care providers to come together and address the issue of why indigenous people and their communities don't access Palliative Care services. A series of regional workshops were held in 2005 and a statewide Indigenous Palliative Care Forum was held in Marysville. This provided an opportunity for both indigenous health organisations and workers and palliative care providers to yarn under one roof for 2 1/2 days and discuss statewide issues. Regional plans and a range of recommendations came from this meeting. VACCHO has now been funded to continue the Indigenous Palliative Care Project for the next 3 1/2 years. The Journey grows and in partnership with Palliative Care Victoria (PCV) it offers the next step forward to improve and build on the work completed to date. The project will continue to have a regional and state focus and will influence the training for Aboriginal Health Workers through PEPA and palliative care workers via "reverse PEPA" which will

provide placements for palliative care workers into Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations.

Jo Harrison, Indigenous Palliative Care Project Officer.

Getting to know you.....

Ann Elkins

Ann Elkins is the General Manager of Continuing Care Services for Northern Health. Continuing Care Services are the sub-acute services, which were previously managed by a General Manager at each of Broadmeadows Health Service and Bundoora Extended Care Centre.

Ann is originally from Mildura but has lived in Melbourne since leaving home on the train to undertake nursing training at St. V's. Ann has worked in a variety of sectors including acute health, residential care, district nursing, community services and local government. Ann has also completed further studies in Community Health and Health Services management. Ann was closely involved in the work, which lead to the development of a Palliative Care Service in the acute campus of Northern Health.

Ann consistently works towards a system in which people don't fall through the gaps – or get caught if they do, and is very interested in simplifying the patient / client journey!



Participants at the APEC training (pictured) included representatives from RDNS, Metropolitan Ambulance Service, Box Hill Hospital, Eastern metro