

Newsletter

In this Issue...

News from the Network	1
About this newsletter	1
Database	1
Website	1
Network dates	1
2007 Conference	2

Allied Health Seminar - Prescribing rights for allied health?	2
---	---

Network Dates:

Allied Health Conference – 19/03/2007

Meeting with DHS – 06/03/2007

Reference group meeting – 16/04/2007

Newsletter submissions:

Submissions to be emailed to sharris@bendigohealth.org.au

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

The months since the last newsletter have mainly been spent planning the conference (more on that later in the newsletter) but I have been able to visit some more of the allied health teams in the region. Again, I have been impressed by the initiatives being employed by various organizations in recruiting and supporting allied health. These include:

- Implementing education/support sessions for new graduates (including across different healthcare organizations)
- Employing overseas trained allied health staff
- Combining positions from two or more services to offer a full-time position

The Region of Choice - Allied Health Recruitment and Retention project has had staffing changes. Carol Parker is to take over from Kate Hyett as Project Manager. Carol is a physiotherapist who currently works with the Rural Health Team at Bendigo Health. I will ask Carol to provide an update on the project for the next edition of the newsletter.

Sally Harris

Coordinator - Allied Health Network: Loddon Mallee Region

T: 5454 9058 (Mon/Tues)

E: sharris@bendigohealth.org.au

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is for the use of allied health professionals within the Loddon Mallee region to communicate what is happening within the area. If you wish to contribute or have a suggestion of a topic you would like to see covered please contact me (details above).

LODDON MALLEE ALLIED HEALTH NETWORK DATABASE

If you know of an allied health professional who may like to receive information from the network please forward the network details to them. They can contact the coordinator and be added to the database to receive future information.

Don't forget to tell new staff about the network.

WEBSITE

www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

Don't forget to add the website to your internet favorites list and to register on the website. Registering will assist colleagues and others to know who to refer to and who to contact re a specialty area of practice.

If you would like a job vacancy or upcoming event advertised on the website please follow the prompts on the website or contact Sally.

2007 CONFERENCE

The **ALLIED HEALTH: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES** conference is to be held on **Monday 19/3/07** at the **Quality Inn Port of Echuca.**

The conference program and registration form have been circulated and are also available on the website – www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au. Please feel free to forward on to your colleagues and allied health networks.

It is sure to be a very interesting day with a range of informative presentations scheduled. Keynote speakers for the day are Ms Luisa Abiuso, Manager, Workforce Innovation Service and Workforce Planning, DHS who will provide an overview of DHS funded Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Projects and Dr Debbie Kesper, Consultant Physician in Rehabilitation Medicine and Clinical Coordinator of ROAST 3 who will discuss the Rural Organisation of Australian Stroke Teams (ROAST) project.

As well as being a great learning opportunity, the conference is also an excellent opportunity to network with other allied health professionals from the Loddon Mallee region and beyond.

Thanks to the conference planning committee (Casey James, Paul Manson, Michelle Matthew, Helen McBurney, Justine O'Bree, and Kellie Stagg) for all their hard work towards planning the conference and also to those who submitted abstracts.

Any new information will be added to the network website. If you have any queries re the conference please contact Sally.

ALLIED HEALTH SEMINAR – PRESCRIBING RIGHTS FOR ALLIED HEALTH?

On February 15th I attended the "Allied Health Seminar – Prescribing rights for Allied Health?" at Ballarat. This presentation by Alison Hogg, Senior Lecturer for Primary Care at Derby University in the UK, discussed workforce re-design that has occurred in the UK in recent years, including changes to prescribing rights.

Nurses, pharmacists and now some allied health disciplines (including physiotherapists and podiatrists) who complete supplementary prescribing training are able to prescribe from a restricted list of medications. To be considered for the course, clinicians need to meet entry requirements (which are outlined in the presentation – see below) and be an experienced practitioner working in a role that requires prescribing.

The seminar was jointly funded by the Health Services Union Health Professionals branch and DHS.

Further information and a copy of the presentation are available at www.hsuvic.asn.au