

Newsletter

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Network Dates:

DHS meeting
19/7/10

Reference Group
meeting
9/8/10

Newsletter submissions:

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

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Welcome to the June edition of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network newsletter.

This edition includes a summary of the 2010 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference held in Echuca on 19th March. It was great to see such a large number of staff from right across the region attend the conference and there was definitely a lot of networking happening during the day. The full conference report is on the Allied Health Network website for those who are interested.

Information on a new Special Interest Group has been included in this issue. This group focuses on Dementia, Delirium & Depression and is region wide, so if you have an interest in this area, give the convener Evan Stanyer a call.

The Health Service Profile for June is the Rural Health Team, a regional service of Bendigo Health. The allied health staff in this service travel a great deal across the region and many of you – particularly in the north may have had contact with them in the past.

Nerissa from Region of Choice provides an update and outlines some potential changes, and CPD for Allied Health's upcoming workshops have been listed including sessions in Robinvale, Swan Hill, Mildura and Kyabram. If you are interested in a workshop in your area give Katie a call. There are also a number of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference presentations on their website.

There is also a casual/contract opportunity for allied health staff in our region who are interested in the disability employment sector –see page 6 for further details.

Due to a Victorian Health Care Association/Department of Health funding grant, there are a number of clinical supervision workshops happening in the region at the moment and I hope some of you have been able to take advantage of this opportunity when they occur in your area. Some have already occurred but upcoming ones that I am aware of, have been added to the Allied Health Network website.

Just a reminder to contact me if you have any articles, ideas, suggestions for the newsletter as I'm happy to receive any information or feedback so that it remains relevant and interesting for Network members.

Regards

Kay

Kay Ford

Coordinator – Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network

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Conference Feedback:

2010 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference “Emerging realities of Allied Health practice”

19th March 2010
Echuca

Our annual conference was held in Echuca this year and we had 67 people attending, up from 53 attendees when it was last held in Echuca in 2007.

The people attending came from a range of disciplines including: Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Dietetics, Podiatry, Social work, Allied Health Assistants and others. The majority of attendees were from within the Loddon Mallee region however we also had people attending from Melbourne, Shepparton, Warnambool and other parts of Victoria.

The Program:

- A “Welcome to Country” by the local Yorta Yorta Aboriginal nation was held for the first time.
- The conference was opened by Echuca Health CEO, Micheal Delahunty who discussed plans for development of their service including an Education Centre.
- Keynote topics included:
 - Climate Change and its impact on Allied Health
 - Department of Health policy directions
 - Professional Resilience
- There were 11 concurrent sessions throughout the day on a wide range of topics
- There were 4 posters which could be viewed at a concurrent session and during the breaks
- There were 7 trade/service stands (including one offering free shoulder massages which proved very popular!)
- Show bags were provided containing information/promotional material from a range of local and regional services

Generally the feedback was positive and people enjoyed the opportunity to network and learn new information. Unfortunately the day ran late and this affected a number of people and we will make sure we address this at next year’s conference.

The conference evaluation indicated that 70% of respondents rated the conference as “Very Good” with 19% rating it as “Excellent” No-one rated the conference as “Fair” or “Poor”.

The full conference report is available on the Allied health Network website.

Thankyou to the conference committee who assisted with the planning of the conference and helped run sessions on the day.



3Ds Special Interest Group

Aim: “...to facilitate information flow, resource sharing and problem solving within the region, related to the care of people with dementia, delirium and/or depression”

This group has been formed as an outcome of the Long Stay Older Patients (LSOP) initiative and is part of Bendigo Health’s mandate as the regional Centre for Promoting Health Independence (CPHI). The LSOP project recognizes the impact of functional decline amongst elderly patients admitted to hospitals. Domains or areas of decline were identified and this Special Interest Group focuses on the domains of dementia, delirium and depression.

The inaugural meeting was held on 24th Feb 2010 in Bendigo, and participants included Dietitians, Nurses, Social Workers, Allied Health Assistants, Managers, Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Quality staff, Occupational Therapists, Mental Health workers, researchers and educators.

Terms of Reference are currently being developed and the special interest group also distributes a newsletter which includes upcoming events and resources related to dementia, delirium & depression. The group is keen to have representatives from the region and new members are welcome.

Next meeting: Tues 29th June 1-2.30pm (George Mayne Lecture Theatre, Bendigo Health (teleconference facilities available)

For more information contact:

Evan Stanyer
 Cognition Consultant
 Collaborative Health Education & Research Centre (CHERC)
 Bendigo Health Ph 5454 6415

(Information provided by Evan Stanyer)

FUNDING FOR RURAL ALLIED HEALTH TO PARTICIPATE IN CPD

The Victorian Healthcare Association has a number of funding opportunities for rural allied health:

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Rural Allied Health Practitioners Subsidy Program – is designed to support rural allied health professionals undertaking training and therefore aims to subsidise rather than fully fund the cost of the professional development. Allied Health professionals can receive up to \$1000 per year to attend approved CPD activities.

Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program – supports rural allied health practitioners who have demonstrated their involvement in, and commitment to, rural allied health practice to improve their skills and expertise through postgraduate studies. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program aims to assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by rural practitioners accessing education.

The guidelines and applications forms are available from the VHA website –
<http://www.vha.org.au/>



Loddon Mallee Health Service

Bendigo Health Rural Health Team

Rural Health Team is a Home and Community Care (HACC) funded program based at Bendigo Health. Rural Health Team provides allied health services to rural communities. The aim is to provide restorative services to enable frail older people, younger people with moderate or profound disability and their carers, to live at home independently for as long as possible.

The Rural Health Team is comprised of five allied health disciplines:

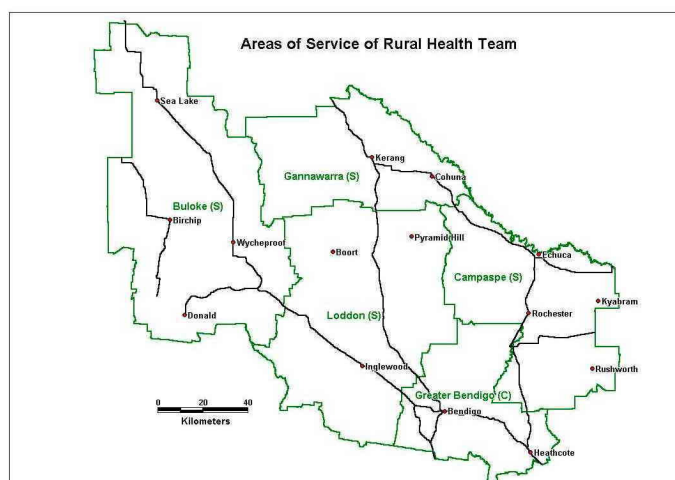
- Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Speech Pathology.

Allied Health services are supplied to towns and communities in five local Government areas of the Loddon Mallee region, including:

- Campaspe
- Loddon
- Buloke (except Sea Lake and surrounding area)
- Gannawarra
- Greater City of Bendigo (Elmore and Heathcote)

Clinicians travel regularly to regional towns and areas to provide one-on-one or group services to individuals in their own homes or community centres.

Bendigo Health
 Rural Health Team
 PO Box 126
 Bendigo 3552
 Ph: 5454 7102



(Information provided by Kymm Reid: Team Leader, Rural Health Team)

News from Department of Health

Region of Choice - Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Project.

It has recently been announced that the Region of Choice Program has received funding for a further four years, commencing from 1 July 2010. This is great news for the Program and demonstrates the Department of Health's commitment to supporting Regional and Rural Allied Health in Victoria.

A Plan for the Program has been developed which incorporates Region of Choice, Mentoring Works and the Statewide Allied Health Workforce Education Programs. The plan is underpinned by the findings of the *Evaluation of Victorian Allied Health Workforce Recruitment and Retention Projects: Final Report, May 2009* and aligns with the key directions outlined in the National Health Workforce Strategic Framework (2004) to address health workforce shortages, maldistribution and increasing demand for services.

The Plan makes a number of recommendations to improve the overall effectiveness of the three programs in supporting allied health recruitment and retention in rural Victoria. One of these strategies is the rebranding of the Programs which incorporates the new names; *'Regional Allied Health Works'*, *'CPD Works'* and *'Mentoring Works'*. The Plan also includes strategies to increase the promotion, coordination and linkages between the Allied Health Workforce Programs and strategies to promote working in Allied Health in rural and regional areas in Victoria.

I am currently finalising the objectives of the 2009-10 Regional Project Plan. A new set of Program Guidelines is currently being developed for 2010-11, these along with recommendations from consultations with local health services, will be reflected in the new *'Loddon Mallee Regional Allied Health Works Plan'* for 2010-11.

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Population Health, Service and Workforce Planning

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CPD for Allied Health

www.cpdforalliedhealth.org

Upcoming Presentations:

Robinvale:

13th & 14th July 2010

Self Management, Team & Leadership Course (2 days)

Swan Hill:

4th Aug 2010

- Population Health in Victoria: health inequalities
- Stress in Allied Health – how to cope and become more efficient
- Supporting Self Management: Common models and approaches & Motivational Counselling

Mildura:

5th Aug 2010

- Time Management and Stress
- Communication skills and conflict resolution
- Supporting Self management: Common Models and approaches & Motivational counselling

Kyabram:

6th & 7th Oct 2010

Self Management, Team & Leadership Course (2 days)

A range of recently recorded presentations (including some from the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference) are also available on the website.

If you would like a presentation in your area contact Katie Dopheide

katie.dopheide@greaterhealth.org

Allied Health Professionals – Casual / Contract Opportunities

AW Workwise is an innovative organisation with a strong growth strategy operating in the employment services sector. We have recently been awarded a national contract to provide **disability employment service assessments** on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

We require a number of Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Physiotherapists, Rehabilitation Counsellors, Social Workers and Vocational Trainers to deliver direct single service, client focussed workplace assessment services throughout Australia. Currently we have a particular need to recruit allied health professionals to conduct client assessments in the Loddon-Mallee and Southern NSW regions.

Applicants will need to possess Diploma/Degree or higher level qualifications and at least two years experience in the disability employment services or related area, such as health, community or welfare sectors.

Employment will be offered on a casual or contract basis, with attractive remuneration rates, and training will be provided. Referrals are allocated to assessors on receipt from DEEWR, and some travel may be required.

We are therefore currently seeking expressions of interest from Allied Health Professionals in the Loddon-Mallee to provide assessment services on behalf of AW Workwise.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, please email your resume to caronr@awworkwise.com.au

For enquiries and further information, please contact;

Jon Blackwell, General Manager - AW Workwise, 0414 584 198

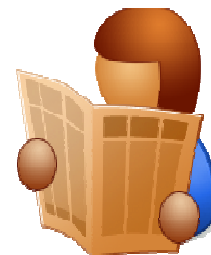
OR

Caron Rooks, National Programme Manager - AW Workwise, 02 9687 7122

Looking for a Job in Loddon Mallee?

Dietetics

(no vacancies registered)



Occupational Therapy

- **Swan Hill District Health** – (F/T) – Grade 1 or 2
- **Bendigo Health** – (F/T) – Grade 2, Psychiatric Services

Podiatry

- **Robinvale District Health Service** – Grade 2

Speech Pathology

(no vacancies registered)

Physiotherapy

- **SCOPE Loddon Mallee** – (P/T or F/T)
- **Swan Hill District Health** – (F/T, temporary) Grade 2

Other positions

- **Bendigo Health** – Clinician, Perinatal Emotional Health Program (Loddon, Campaspe, Southern Mallee).
- **Bendigo Health** – Project Officers, Cancer Care Project

For details on these and other positions go to the website:

www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au