



Newsletter

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Network Dates:

Reference group meeting
02/07/2007

Meeting with DHS
16/07/2007

Newsletter submissions:

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

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

We are currently undergoing an evaluation of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network. The aim is to identify what areas are working well, what could be improved and to identify other ways the network can provide support to allied health professionals working in the Loddon Mallee region. Thank you to those who have already provided feedback. It has been great to meet with people and get valuable suggestions on areas to improve and current issues facing allied health professionals. If you are able to provide feedback please contact me.

Next month I will be attending the National Allied Health Conference in Hobart. I will provide a summary of key themes in the next newsletter.

If you would like further information on the network, to arrange a visit to your work place or to discuss any issues affecting allied health in the Loddon Mallee region please contact me.

Sally Harris

Coordinator - Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network

T: 5454 9058 / E: sharris@bendigohealth.org.au

Office days: Monday and Wednesday

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 (public or private) 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

The Allied Health Network website currently includes information on:

- a number of vacant positions in the Loddon Mallee region including physiotherapy, podiatry and speech pathology positions
 - see the Employment page;
- upcoming professional development events
 - see the Professional Events section of the What's On page

Don't forget to add the website to your internet favorites list and to register on the website.

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

Looking for some financial assistance to complete a course or professional development activity?

A reminder that the Allied Health Continuing Professional Development Subsidy program may be able to assist. The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) coordinates the Allied Health CPD Subsidy program. This subsidy scheme is available to assist allied health practitioners (including Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists and Speech Pathologists) involved in rural health in Victoria to participate in conferences and skill development opportunities relevant to the development and provision of rural health services.

This fund is not available to assist with formal tertiary qualifications. It applies to qualified allied health practitioners in rural and remote areas of Victoria, working in the public sector/agencies only. The total level of subsidy is capped at \$1,000 per person per financial year. Subsidies are restricted to course fees, accommodation, travel and childcare expenses.

Applications need to be lodged 2 months prior to the event or conference

For further information including the guidelines and application form go to the Awards/Scholarship information at www.vha.org.au or contact Sara Duncan (03) 8606 4600 or sara.duncan@vha.org.au

I have been informed of a number of people who have successfully applied for this funding recently to assist with course costs.

If you know of other funding/scholarship programs please notify Sally and your information can be shared.

Upcoming events

Statewide Allied Health Workforce Education Program

Topics, dates and past presentations are available from <http://vic.cpdforalliedhealth.org>
See page 3 for further information

Mentor Works – Mentoring training

- **Mildura:** June 28 & 29
- **Swan Hill:** July 26 & 27

Further information available at www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

Tai Chi for Health Conference highlights – Arthritis Victoria

6.30pm on 29/6/07, Elsternwick

Further information available at www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

Chronic Disease Self Management Conference

26&27/6/07, Sofitel, Melbourne

Further information available at www.mcmconferences.com/crd/program.html

7th National Allied Health Conference

July 18-20, Hobart

Further information available from www.cdesign.com.au/nahc2007



Conference feedback

A rich tapestry of excellence in allied health – Weaving innovation into best practice. Beechworth, May 16, 2007

On 16/05/07 Carol Parker (Region of Choice Project Officer) and I attended this conference which was organised by the Central Hume Primary Care Partnerships – Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Project and Region of Choice. The conference was attended by approximately 70 allied health professionals.

The keynote presentations were:

- Jackie Mansourian, Health Issues Centre: Participation – Loose thread or bold pattern?
- Lucy Harbinson, Workforce Innovation Service and Workforce Planning, DHS: Overview of Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Programs
- Beth Wilson, Victoria's Health Services Commissioner: It's all part of the rich tapestry of life" Unstitching health complaints to create quality changes.
- Dr Adrian Schoo, Senior Lecturer and Director of Workforce Development, Greater Green Triangle University: Statewide Allied Health Workforce Education Program

A range of other presentations were made throughout the day on a variety of innovative services, clinical fieldwork approached and recruitment and retention strategies.

For further details on the presentations please contact me and I can provide a summary of the conference.

Statewide Allied Health Workforce Education Program

The Statewide Allied Health Workforce Education Program is a DHS funded program to support allied health. This education program has recently commenced and meetings have been held to establish links between the program and the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network. One session is scheduled to be held in Mildura in August and efforts are being made to bring at least one more to the Loddon Mallee region later in the year. Allied health professionals are able to view the sessions via the web at their convenience.

The topics for the first six months of the program include:

- Prescribing rights for allied health
- Measurement and management of spasticity
- Dysphagia management of people with progressive neurological disorders
- Diabetes prevention in primary health care
- Evidence for early stroke management: A Very Early Rehabilitation Trial (AVERT)
- Casting and Splinting principles for foot deformity
- Falls prevention
- Pharmacology in chronic conditions: Update for allied health professionals to enhance outcomes

For further information and to access the presentations already completed go to

<http://cpdforalliedhealth.org>

If you have suggestions for future topics please email me.