

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Welcome to the August issue of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network.

Winter is just about over and the pace at work seems to be increasing as we head towards Christmas. Lots of changes are happening particularly with allied health students, and clinical placements and so in this newsletter I have tried to give you a summary to keep you up to date.

In this issue we look at:

- Feedback from the National Rural Health Conference
- An up-date from LaTrobe University and their allied health student program
- Information from DHS about changes to health clinical placements and
- We meet the new Region of Choice project manager for Loddon Mallee – Deanne Brogan.

I have also included some “CPD for Allied Health” professional development events and allied health job vacancies as many members had requested this.

As Deanne mentions in her article we are keen to do some joint visits to different part of the region in the next couple of months, so I will be showcasing people and health facilities in the newsletter also in the coming months.

If there are other things you would like included in the newsletter or want to submit an item please contact me.

Regards
Kay

Kay Ford
Coordinator – Loddon Mallee Allied health Network
Ph 0419 836 838
Email: kford@bendigohealth.org.au
www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

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Network Dates:

DHS meeting
30/10/09

Reference group
meeting
12/10/2009

Newsletter submissions:

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



Feedback from 10th National Rural Health Conference May 16th – 20th 2009, Cairns Qld

Carol Parker, (past Region of Choice project manager and Physio) attended this conference and presented a paper entitled: “Linger Longer in the Loddon Mallee Region of Victoria” The paper detailed the work of the Allied Health Network and Region of Choice Project. Below is her feedback from the conference:

There were more than 200 recommendations from the conference. These recommendations were passed to Nicola Roxon, the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing on the final day. The second recommendation mentioned allied health, ‘To help meet rural and remote health workforce shortages and to improve care, the Conference emphasises the need to speed the rate of development of **new health professional roles** (e.g. physician assistant, nurse practitioner and advanced allied health practitioner) and the **expansion of existing roles** (such as ambulance officers, paramedics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers) as appropriate. This will require the establishment and funding of additional positions as well as structural change in the professions and further consideration of revised models for funding health services. These changes will enable the implementation of the innovative service models needed in rural and remote areas and must be driven by patients and their needs.’

Other recommendations included:

- early investment in the adoption of **individual electronic health records**,
- the development of a **national rural health plan**,
- greater **equivalence of incentives** for education, training, recruitment and retention of rural and remote health professionals across all disciplines,
- **ongoing tracking** of undergraduate, post-graduate, training and practice trends in rural areas for all disciplines and
- that **climate change** be recognised as a core issue for health.

More information is available from the website:

http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/recommendations/docs/PRIORITY_RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf

Information was available at the conference regarding many different programs and projects. Examples include:

- The Mental Health Professionals Network (MHPN) was represented and were asking for expressions of interest from primary mental health care clinicians interested in participating in, or facilitating a local network. The aim of the MHPN is to support the development of sustainable, interdisciplinary collaboration in the local primary mental health sector. The website is www.mhpn.org.au
- The Remote Area Health Corps were exhibiting and were interested in finding health professionals who were able to provide primary health care to remote indigenous communities. They are providing short term paid placements in the Northern Territory for as little as three weeks. The website is rahc.com.au
- The Indigenous Allied Health Australia peak body was present and is welcoming involvement from interested health professionals. Their website is www.indigenousalliedhealth.com.au
- The Health Issues Centre aims to improve the health outcomes for Australians, especially the disadvantaged. Its principal activity is to promote the prevention and management of disease by developing and disseminating information on more effective consumer-centred health care. Their website is www.healthissuescentre.org.au

FUNDING FOR RURAL ALLIED HEALTH TO PARTICIPATE IN CPD

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for allied health practitioners provides up to \$1,000 per successful applicant to assist rural Victorian Allied Health practitioners to attend conferences and skill development opportunities. It is available all year round although applications need to be lodged 2 months prior to the event. This fund does not assist with formal tertiary qualifications.

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



Sixty Million Reasons to Study Allied Health at La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus

In May this year, the federal government announced approximately \$60 million from Education Infrastructure Funding to establish the La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS), which is a radical and original model for health professional education and research across northern Victoria. This funding will provide two additional facilities and student accommodation. The new LRHS which aims to

- Improve rural participation rates with 781 additional student places.
- Create an additional 60 academic and administrative positions
- Increase applied health research, improve health practice and service delivery.

As part of the LRHS, three new double degree courses will commence at regional campuses in 2010. A Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Podiatric Practice and a Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Speech Pathology will commence on the Bendigo campus next year. This four year program will be exactly the same as the course currently conducted at the Bundoora campus. A double degree in paramedics (Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Paramedic Practice) will also commence in 2010 at the Bendigo campus however students will be able to study the first year of this course on any of the regional campuses at Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton. Occupational therapy students will also be able to complete the first year (a common first year for FHS students) on all of the regional campuses in 2010 while first year physiotherapy students can also study at Wodonga and Shepparton campuses.

Course intakes across the regional campuses for 2010 first year students will be 40 physiotherapy students, 25 occupational therapy students, 25 podiatry students, 25 speech pathology students and 30 paramedic students.

As part of the funding to establish the LRHS, anatomy wet laboratories are currently being established on the Bendigo campus. All years of the occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry, speech pathology and paramedic courses will now be taught at Bendigo, eliminating the need for students to attend the Bundoora campus for second year in 2010.

The funding also provides for an additional Health Sciences Facility (3000 sq metre building located on La Trobe University - Bendigo campus) which will contain multipurpose preclinical/simulation facilities, innovative and contemporary learning spaces, office space and research facilities. The Clinical Teaching Facility (3000 sq metre building co-located with the Monash University School of Rural Health on the site of the Bendigo Hospital) will provide collaborative teaching rooms, simulation laboratories, a multipurpose lecture theatre and student and staff facilities.

Over 200 student accommodation beds for the LRHS will be provided in regional centres such as Wodonga, Echuca, Mildura, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Bendigo. This will enable students to undertake placements in health and human agencies located in these regions, particularly in the third and fourth year of the double degree.

Information provided by Dr Carol McKinstry
Senior Lecturer, LaTrobe University

DHS NEWS

Clinical Placements Website

The website "Clinical Placements in Victoria" has been announced by DHS. The website is intended to provide practical assistance for clinical teaching staff and placement coordinators. It includes publications, links, resources and project updates to assist educators to plan and develop clinical placements for healthcare students. It also provides an opportunity for you to showcase innovation and best practice in your own work. You are invited to access the web resources and submit your own case studies where indicated throughout the website.

The Clinical Placements in Victoria website can be accessed at:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/workforce/placements>

A New Model of Clinical Governance in Victoria

Bendigo Forum – 30th July 2009

I attended a DHS forum in Bendigo recently which outlined the proposed model.

Background:

The Council of Victorian Health Deans and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have jointly initiated a project to provide advice on governance arrangements for improving clinical placements in Victoria. A consultant was engaged to develop a model (in consultation with stakeholders) for managing and organizing clinical placements in all health professional disciplines in Victoria.

Proposed Model:

The model involves the establishment of **Regional Clinical Academies** in 11 different regions in Victoria. There would be one academy for the Loddon Mallee region. The Academies would have representatives from health services, education providers and any other stakeholders in the region. They would be multidisciplinary, and provide a forum for:

- Sharing ideas and resources
- Discussing multidisciplinary issues
- Developing regional priorities for capacity building and infrastructure
- Innovation and research

The model recognizes the need for input from individual health disciplines and proposes the forming of statewide discipline groups called Discipline Councils to develop a framework for placements for that particular discipline. The framework may be different for different disciplines. Details of the model are still to be finalized.

<http://health.vic.gov.au/workforce/placements/governance/placement-governance>

News from Region of Choice - Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Project.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all Allied Health Professionals, Managers and Services in the Loddon Mallee Region. I am the new worker who will be responsible for the Region of Choice-Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Project in your area. The recent Allied Health Programs Evaluation made numerous recommendations to enhance the value of Region of Choice, Statewide Allied Health Workforce Education Program and Mentoring Works, including the recommendation that the Region of Choice Project Manager position be an internal regional department position. Recent changes in the Department of Human Services structure means that this position now sits within the new Department of Health. I am excited about contributing to the further development of this project and will keep you informed of any changes that will be rolled out in accordance with the evaluations recommendations.

I am making the move from Melbourne to take up this position and will have relocated to Bendigo by the middle of next week. I would like to thank everybody for their kind welcome and to especially thank Carol Parker for all the work she has done in making this project such a success and the generous support she continues to provide to me, as I transition into this role.

Kay Ford and I are keen to visit all public Allied Health Services over the next few months, so I will be making contacts with services in the next few weeks to introduce myself and schedule times to visit you all.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me on deanne.brogan@dhs.vic.gov.au or ph: 5434-5629

Deanne Brogan
 Project Officer-Region of Choice
 Department of Health

CPD for Allied Health – www.cpdforalliedhealth.org

Up coming events:

Sep't:

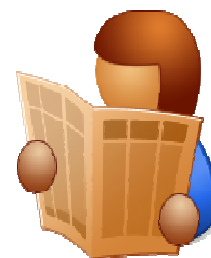
- 21st & 22nd - Self Management, Team & Leadership Course – Bendigo Health
- 22nd - Palliative Care & the Interdisciplinary Approach - Bendigo Community Health Service
- 23rd - Motivational Interviewing in Chronic Disease Management - Echuca
- 24th - Motivational Interviewing in Chronic Disease Management / Supporting self management: Common Models and Approaches

Oct:

- 16th - Gerontology – Aging- What's been happening? – Hamilton
- 30th - Art in Therapy Conference – Dunkeld

For more information visit the website

Looking for a job in Loddon Mallee?



Dietetics

Grade 1 or 2 – Rochester & Elmore District Health Service

Occupational Therapy

Grade 1 Rotational – Bendigo Health
Grade 1 - Sunraysia Community Health

Podiatry

Grade 1 or 2 – Bendigo Community Health Service
Grade 2 – Swan Hill Hospital
Chief – Swan Hill Hospital
Grade 2 – Robinvale District Health Service

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

www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au