



Newsletter

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NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Welcome to the August edition of the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network (LMAHN) newsletter. This newsletter features:

- information on the LMAHN education and support programs which started in July,
- an update on the new undergraduate curricula commencing at La Trobe University in 2009,
- information on two schemes to assist allied health professionals with the cost of continuing professional development - the Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship scheme and the Continuing Professional Development for allied health practitioners program, and
- information on CareSearch palliative care knowledge network.

I recently attended a DHS workshop on workforce redesign. Workforce redesign continues to be a focus of DHS including developing the role of allied health assistants. Later this year DHS plan to look at advance practitioner roles for allied health professionals.

On September 2nd and 3rd, Carol Parker (Loddon Mallee Project Officer - Region of Choice, Allied Health Recruitment and Retention Project) will be visiting Ouyen and Mildura. We hope to meet with as many allied health professionals as possible.

Planning for the 2009 Loddon Mallee Allied Health Conference is commencing. Please forward any suggestions for the conference to me.

Sally Harris
Coordinator
Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network
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Network Dates:

DHS meeting -
01/09/2008

Reference group
meeting -
13/10/2008

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is to aid communication between allied health professionals in the Loddon Mallee region.

If you wish to contribute or have a suggestion of a topic you would like to see covered please contact Sally Harris.

WEBSITE

www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

Don't forget the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network website is updated regularly to include the latest information on CPD events, job vacancies and other allied health topics.

If you would like to advertise a job vacancy or upcoming event on the website, please follow the prompts on the website or contact Sally Harris.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY NEW UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

In 2009, La Trobe University (LTU) will be offering the only four year bachelor and masters programs in health in Victoria. Existing bachelor programs will be replaced by eight new combine bachelor and masters degree programs in the following areas:

- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Health Information Management
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Occupational Therapy Practice
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Orthoptics
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Physiotherapy Practice
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Podiatry Practice
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Clinical Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Social Work
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Masters of Speech Pathology

A feature of the new double degree programs will be a common first year. This enables maximum flexibility for students to transfer between programs following the first year and where places are available. All allied health students will do the following units:

- Human Biosciences A & B (anatomy and physiology)
- Public Health Units
 - Individual Determinants of Health and Well-being
 - Social Determinants of Health and Well-being
 - Environmental Determinants of Health and Well-being
- Interprofessional Practice A & B.

Students will also be able to take an elective unit from anywhere within the university for their last first year unit.

The common first year emphasizes that health professionals work effectively in teams. The new programs will also be taught using an enquiry based learning approach which leads to greater student engagement. It promotes increased choice and independence in learning through the use of real life scenarios to guide the learning in small groups of students.

The Faculty of Health Science is also introducing a number of two year Graduate Entry Masters (GEM) programs for students who have already undertaken an undergraduate qualification in health sciences or another discipline area. In 2009, LTU will continue to offer GEM programs in occupational therapy and speech pathology while in 2010, there are plans to offer a GEM program in health information, orthoptics and social work. In 2011, GEM programs will also be available for physiotherapy, podiatry and clinical prosthetics and orthotics.

For the first time, LTU physiotherapy and occupational therapy programs will take first year students at the Bendigo Campus with intakes of 25 occupational therapy students and 40 physiotherapy students. These programs will be exactly the same as the Bundoora Campus programs however at this stage, the second year of the program will be undertaken at Bundoora, then the third and fourth years undertaken at Bendigo. We are hopeful that in the near future all years of both programs will be conducted at Bendigo with funding applications for significant capital works already being submitted by LTU. Graduate entry programs are also planned for Bendigo with the first intake of graduate entry masters of occupational therapy practice to occur in 2011.

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LA TROBE UNIVERSITY NEW UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM (cont.)

With significant expansions in LTU allied health programs occurring, there will be increased teaching opportunities for clinicians in this region.

For more information, please contact on Ph: 54447416 or 94795699; email: c.mckinstry@latrobe.edu.au
Carol McKinstry - School of Occupational Therapy, La Trobe University

2008-09 LMAHN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Two LMAHN education and support programs commenced in July. The "Building Evidence for Practice" program aims to provide information to assist allied health staff to complete, better understand and critique research and/or projects. The "Supporting Clinical Educators" program aims to provide information, practical suggestions and support to those currently supervising students or those considering supervising students in the future. At the request of attendees the session will also consider supervision of junior staff wherever possible.

Each program will run for one hour each month. The sessions are being videoconferenced and so far between 25 and 30 people have attended each session across six sites - Bendigo, Castlemaine, Echuca, Mildura, Robinvale and Swan Hill. Attendance at the sessions is flexible with some people attending all the sessions whilst others are attending only those sessions of particular interest. People are asked to register for the sessions they plan to attend (via an email to Sally Harris).

The presenters for the sessions include a mix of university academics and allied health clinicians. Many thanks to Ass Prof Helen McBurney, Prof John Humphreys and Tiffany France who have presented the sessions to date.

The programs are being evaluated, with all those who have attended a session to date or planning to attend the future sessions asked to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire aims to gather baseline data regarding the confidence of attendees in the program areas, expectations regarding the programs and videoconferencing experiences. Evaluation will also occur at the end of the programs.

The upcoming September sessions:

Building Evidence for Practice - Preparing a budget and seeking funding

Monday September 1st, 4-5pm

Presenter: Jenni Ham, Operations Manager, CHERC, Bendigo Health

**Supporting Clinical Educators - Learning styles: How do students learn?
What is your learning style?**

Monday September 15th, 4-5pm

Presenter: Lieve De Clercq, School of Occupational Therapy, La Trobe University

The full programs are available on the final page of this newsletter. For any queries, suggestions or to register to attend please contact Sally Harris.

Thank you to Ass Prof Helen McBurney - La Trobe University, Dr Carol McKinstry - La Trobe University, Dr Michael Curtain - Charles Sturt University and the LMAHN reference group who have been involved in planning the programs.



CARESEARCH PALLIATIVE CARE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network* is a suite of palliative care information and resources. It is designed to support health professionals involved in providing palliative care and those needing palliative care and their families and friends. Clinical information is available on a number of palliative care symptoms and for all of these topics there is an associated PubMed search which can be run immediately to identify the most current literature. There is also an extensive section to help health practitioners find quality resources and literature and use this evidence in their practice. A Professional Groups section provides profession specific information relating to palliative care and reflects the diversity of the multi-disciplinary team. There is also specifically written information for patients, carers and their families.

The website has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the National Palliative Care Program. CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network* is now available at www.caresearch.com.au

FUNDING FOR RURAL ALLIED HEALTH TO PARTICIPATE IN CPD

AUSTRALIAN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship scheme assists qualified health professionals (not including doctors and nurses) who reside and provide clinical services in rural and remote areas. The scheme provides financial assistance to support the maintenance and upgrading of skills and knowledge relevant to the needs of their local community.

Funding can be used to assist with institutional, accommodation and travel costs associated with continuing professional development events. The current funding round is available for activities that commence after 1 January 2009.

Further information, including guidelines and the application form, are available from <http://www.sarrah.org.au>

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship scheme is now open. Applications close 5pm EST Monday September 29 2008.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALLIED HEALTH PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM

The Continuing Professional Development for allied health practitioners program 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/>



LODDON MALLEE ALLIED HEALTH NETWORK 2008-09 EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

	Building evidence for practice (First Monday of each month 4pm)	Supporting clinical educators (Third Monday of each month 4pm)
Date	Topic	Topic
01/09/08	Preparing a budget and seeking funding	
15/09/08		Learning styles - how do students learn? - what is your learning style?
06/10/08	Research ethics/ Preparing an ethics application	
20/10/08		Challenges in clinical education- skills for problem resolution
03/11/08	Completing a systematic literature review	
17/11/08		Innovative placements
01/12/08	Critical appraisal of literature	
Christmas / New Year break		
02/02/09	Choosing and implementing qualitative designs	
16/02/09		Preventing burnout - looking after yourself/ juggling your caseload and students
02/03/09	Choosing and implementing quantitative designs	
16/03/09		Evaluating your teaching/ Developing a teaching portfolio
06/04/09	Designing and implementing studies with a clinical intervention component	
20/04/09		Further topic raised during program - if relevant
04/05/09	Communicating research results - Report writing. - Writing for publication. - Conference presentations - oral and posters.	
18/05/09		Further topic raised during program - if relevant
01/06/09	Post-graduate qualification opportunities	

Dates/topics may be subject to change