

Newsletter

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Network Dates:

DHS meeting
18/10/10

Reference Group
meeting
11/10/10

Newsletter submissions:

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

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

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

Apologies for the lateness of this edition, it only just makes it into Aug, but hopefully you find the information was worth waiting for....

This edition includes:

An update from the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network Reference Group as there has been quite a bit of work done over the last 12 months that you may not be aware of. The current members of the Reference Group have been listed, along with the updated Terms of Reference and Objectives for the Network as well as some recent activities.

This edition also highlights the discipline of Speech Pathology. Speech Pathology Week was held this month with the Theme of **Vocation: Communication**. I have taken the opportunity to focus on the Region 3 Speech Pathology Group and the Southern Mallee Regional Communication Service. Some information on the Communication Resource Centre at SCOPE has also been provided along with how to access funding via the Non-electronic Communication Aid Scheme.

Tina Fratta, the new Alzheimer's Victoria Regional Worker for Loddon Mallee introduces herself and provides some information on her role. Also a reminder that Dementia Awareness Week & World Alzheimer's Day will be held next month.

Following a review of the Victorian Aids and Equipment Program there is going to be some significant changes to this program and these have been outlined in this edition of the newsletter. These changes are to be rolled out over the coming months.

The Health Service Profile this month focuses on SCOPE, providing information on the organization in general as well as the services that the Loddon Mallee office provides.

There is also an update from the Department of Health on Region of Choice & CPD for Allied Health including a name change for both of these programs.

Hope you have all managed to get through our cold wet Winter and are looking forward to longer Spring days and hopefully a little sunshine. Until the next edition.....

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

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Allied Health Network – Reference Group Update

The current members of the Reference Group are:

| Name | Title/Organisation |
|-------------------|--|
| Robyn Lindsay | Director of Allied Health/Chief Physiotherapist, Bendigo Health (chair) |
| Kay Ford | Coordinator, Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network |
| Tim Adam | Coordinator of Aging & Chronic Illness, Maryborough District Health Service |
| Ruth Fox | Manager Primary Care, Robinvale District Health Service |
| Kate Brown | Team Leader Rural Health Team, Bendigo Health |
| Paul Smith | Executive Officer Primary Care, Swan Hill District Health |
| Rhonda Gallienne | Team Coordinator, Allied Health & Counselling Services, Sunraysia Community Health Service.(Mildura) |
| John Humphreys | Professor Rural Health Research, School of Rural Health, Monash University. |
| Teresa Iacono | Professor & Head of Department of Allied Health, Rural Health School, LaTrobe University. |
| Andrew Kallaur | Manager, Health and Aging, Department of Health-Loddon Mallee |
| Margaret McDonald | Manager Aged Care, Department of Health-Loddon Mallee |
| Current vacancies | Echuca Regional Health Charles Sturt University |

Over the last 12 months the Reference Group (in consultation with the Department of Health) has been reviewing the Terms of Reference and Objectives for the Network and have now finalized this document – see below.

Vision

The Allied Health Network Loddon Mallee will provide the best possible support to Allied Health Professionals in the Loddon Mallee region by working collaboratively to encourage participation in the Network and its capacity building activities to enhance service delivery.

Context

The Allied Health Network Loddon Mallee Region represents the Allied Health professionals working within the Loddon Mallee Region of Victoria. The primary focus includes Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics and Podiatry. However, the Allied Health Network Loddon Mallee Region does not exclude other Allied Health professionals.

The Allied Health Network Loddon Mallee is funded by Home and Community Care (HACC), Department of Health and supports the strategic development of Allied Health through the Active Service Model and Assessment Framework.

The Allied Health Network Loddon Mallee Region supports Allied Health practitioners and progresses their collective interests. There is an emphasis on recruitment and retention of Allied Health professionals, skill development and communication amongst practitioners and services.

Allied Health Network – Reference Group Update Continued

Membership

Members of the Reference Group will represent:

- The five core disciplines – Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists and Speech Pathologists.
- A range of Loddon Mallee healthcare organisations which employ allied health professionals
- Relevant Universities who provide students to the Loddon Mallee region
- Department of Health

Allied Health Network Objectives:

1. *To support Allied Health professionals across the region through the promotion of networks and by providing opportunities for communication, learning and development.*
2. *To provide opportunities to increase the skills and knowledge of Allied Health professionals in the region, with an emphasis on client focussed care.*
3. *To provide opportunities for support and sharing of information within the Loddon Mallee Allied Health sector and where issues are identified, work collaboratively to address these.*
4. *To support other initiatives which are consistent with the vision of the Allied Health Network.*
5. *To identify emerging trends and support strategic directions which affect Allied Health and take a lead role in proposing practical ways of improving the Allied Health service system in the Loddon Mallee region and progress these where opportunities exist.*
6. *To facilitate the recruitment and career development of Allied Health professionals in the region.*

Some recent activities undertaken by the Allied Health Network and Reference Group that you may not be aware of:

- Applying for and receiving funding from Department of Health to run Student Clinical Supervision workshops in Swan Hill and Bendigo. These workshops were conducted in June this year.
- Providing opportunities for regional information sharing and collaboration through Reference Group alliances.
- Reference Group discussions on service model innovations around the development of the Allied Health Assistant workforce.
- AHN Coordinator attended meetings with Allied Health staff at Cobaw Community Health Service and also attended the Regional Chief Physiotherapists Forum.
- The AHN supports and distributes information on the HACC Active Service Model and Assessment Framework via the newsletter and conference presentations.
- The AHN supports other Department of Health initiatives such as CPDworks & AlliedHealthworks by promoting these in the newsletter and on website. AlliedHealthworks also provides an update at Reference Group meetings.
- The Allied Health Network brochure has recently been updated and is available from the Coordinator.

Speech Pathology Week 2010

Speech Pathology week 2010 was held nationally from August 22-28 this year. The theme, **Vocation: Communication**, aptly summarised what binds the large group of Speech Pathology professionals and students across our region. A passion for communication.

Region 3 Speech Pathology Group

The Region 3 Speech Pathology Group is a network of Speech Pathologists working across the Loddon Mallee region. All areas of practice are represented in this group; public and private practice, paediatric and adult. In the past, the role of the group was to provide a forum for rural and regional practitioners who were quite isolated to meet others, share professional development and provide mentoring and support. With the advent of teleconferencing, larger departments and easier access to local professional development, the group is now largely internet based, providing information to the group via the LMAHN mailing list. The Regional Manager's Forum still convenes 2-3 times per year, allowing Managers of Speech Pathology to discuss recruitment, education, innovation and resource sharing.

Speech Pathology week is a chance for this group to focus inwards on the profession itself. In 2010, with Speech Pathology training courses starting in Bendigo and rapidly developing opportunities for Allied Health, members of Region 3 are looking again for closer alliances and relationships with other members of the profession. Expressions of interest have been called for Speech Pathologists in the Bendigo area who would be interested in gathering to discuss "all things Speech Pathology" (email Alice Hunt at AHunt@bendigohealth.org.au) or who are interested in participating in a Paediatric Interest group (email Kerryn James at Kerryn.James@sjog.org.au).

This new face of the Region 3 Speech Pathology group is a reflection of the growth and development of the profession in this region. Happy Speech Pathology week 2010 to all in the region who do have a Vocation: Communication!

(Melinda Charlesworth: Chief Speech Pathologist/Manager Audiology, Bendigo Health)

Southern Mallee Regional Communication Service

The Southern Loddon Mallee Regional Communication Service (SLMRCS) provides communication support to adults with severe communication difficulties. We have a team of 1 Speech Pathologist (0.6), 1 Allied Health Assistant (0.4) and recently a Research Assistant (0.4). Communication intervention is largely offered through the Integrated Communication Strategy, which has provided intervention for approximately 250 adults with complex communication needs in this region. This is achieved by a multilayered hub and spoke model in which disability support workers/Communication Facilitators trained in communication, play a significant role. The clients attend nine disability day services across six towns, with the majority living in 30 residential units or with their families.

This hub and spoke model unfolds at a number of different levels:

At the first level the SLMRCS Speech Pathologist is one of 11 spokes in a statewide initiative called the Communication Access Network. The Communication Resource Centre at SCOPE (which is a specialist ACC unit) offers a variety of training to assist in building capacity for these Speech Pathologists.

At the second level the LMRCS Speech Pathologist is the hub in a regional setting where nine disability support workers form the spokes at their day services and 48 Communication Facilitators form the spokes in residential services. They in turn become the hub at their day services/ Residential Houses, and other staff in each service, become the spokes for further capacity development.

Through this Network the Speech Pathologist facilitates interaction between houses and day services at a regional level. This model of service delivery is currently being evaluated.

Cont next page.....

Southern Mallee Regional Communication Service - cont

In addition the Regional Communication Speech Pathologist is involved in a number of projects in collaboration with Bendigo Health:

- Development of the CommuniKit for Acute Care and Rehab – this is a set of resources to help the stroke survivor and family understand what has happened, and provides a few basic communication aids.
- Development of the CommuniKit for Palliative Care and Hospice – A set of communication resources to support end stage of life.
- Hospital signage – this is a project to develop symbol based and colour based signage for way-finding in the hospital.
- Development of a Disability Action Plan for the hospital to ensure people with disability receive good patient care in a number of different ways.

The Regional Communication Service Speech Pathologist is available to support clients and other Speech Pathologists on request: Please contact – Barbara Solarsh Ph (03) 5454 7109 (Mon-Wed)

(Source: Barbara Solarsh-Regional Communication Service Speech Pathologist)

“Communication Access in Healthcare Settings Forum”

- Communication aids and resources for hospital healthcare settings -

Presenters: Katie Lyon (Communication Resource Centre) & Kylie Casey (Barwon Health)

Thurs 11th Nov 2010, 9.30am-4pm

Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth St. Melbourne

RSVP: crs@scopevic.org.au or Ph (03) 98432000

More information also available on LMAHN website: www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

Communication Resource Centre

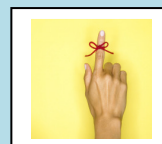
Through the Communication Resource Centre, Speech Pathologists and people who require ACC can access the Non-electronic Communication Aid Scheme – NECAS (www.scopevic.org.au).

This service provides \$500 of funding per person each year to produce the required non-electronic communication resource. All the Speech Pathologist has to do is design the communication aid and complete the NECAS application form found on the website. You then receive a draft for your review and 2 copies of the final aid plus an electronic copy of the resource.

(Information provided by Barbara Solarsh – Regional Communication Service Speech Pathologist)

New Alzheimer's Victoria - Regional Worker

*Dementia Awareness Week 16th - 26th September
World Alzheimer's Day 21st September*



Alzheimers Australia Vic has appointed Tina Fratta as their new Dementia Consultant for the Loddon Mallee region. This region covers Greater Bendigo, South Loddon, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Mt Alexander and Macedon Ranges. The role of dementia Consultant includes early intervention counseling, education and support for people with dementia, resourcing families, carers and the community with information about dementia and liaising with other service networks and agencies. One of the primary focuses of the role is to facilitate **Living with Memory Loss Programs** for newly diagnosed people and their carers.

For more information about this service and how to access us please contact:

Tina Fratta
Alzheimer's Australia Victoria
48 Queens St Bendigo
Ph 5444 5670 tfratta@alzvic.org.au



Changes to Victorian Aids & Equipment Program (A&EP)

"New statewide service to be established!"

Following a review of the current A&EP program a new statewide service is to be established at Ballarat Health Services.

Features:

- Includes Aids & Equipment, Domiciliary Oxygen, Continence Aids and Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme
- A single point of entry – one phone number & email
- A single statewide waiting list
- A group of clinical advisors who will provide clinical expertise on applications.

The change-over is expected to occur between: Dec 2010 – June 2011, and in the meantime clients and therapists are to continue to contact their local issuing centre.

More details will be available later in the year.

For more information go to the Department of Health website:

http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/supports_for_people/living_in_my_home/aids_and_equipment_program/aids-and-equipment-program-redevelopment



Loddon Mallee Health Service

SCOPE

www.scopevic.org.au

SCOPE is one of the largest providers of services to people with a disability in Victoria and one of the largest not-for-profit organisations in Australia. It provides services throughout Victoria to thousands of children and adults with physical and multiple disabilities.

Their Mission: to support people with a disability to achieve their potential in welcoming and inclusive communities.

“At Scope, we see people with a disability simply just as people. Scope seeks to understand who you are, to find out what matters most to you and support you to achieve it. We provide ‘Scope For People With A Disability’ to live the lives that they choose. Through our world-class research, services, education, communication resources and advocacy, Scope is continually identifying better opportunities to support each person with a disability to:

*Make decisions about their own life Get the right job, not just any job
Choose where and who they live with Enjoy full participation in their community of choice
Live out their equal rights*

SCOPE has 96 offices around Victoria with their Head Office in Box Hill in Melbourne. Client services are offered across 3 metropolitan and 5 rural regions- one of those being Loddon Mallee.

SCOPE –Loddon Mallee

**31-45 Bennett St, Bendigo
Ph (03) 5442 2000**

SCOPE Loddon Mallee provides services across the region including the local government areas of Buloke Shire, Campaspe Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Gannawarra Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire, Rural City of Mildura, Mount Alexander Shire and Rural City of Swan Hill.

Services include:

- “Helping Children with Autism” (provider)
- Early Intervention Services
- Programs for 6-18yrs
- Programs for 18-65yrs
- Other fee for service programs

Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists are involved in providing individualised programs for clients including direct client intervention, liaison with other services, education for carers, advocacy etc.

To refer: contact Marlene Bemelen (Coordinator of Specialist Services) on the above number to discuss you client.

SCOPE -Loddon Mallee currently has a vacancy for a Physiotherapist – (full time or part time)
-see website for more information www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au or contact Marlene directly on the above number.



(Source: Scope website/Coordinator Specialist Services-Scope-Loddon Mallee)

News from the Department of Health

Region of Choice

Following on from the announcement that the Region of Choice Project has received a further four years of funding, the project manager position was advertised and Nerissa Fry has accepted the position. She will recommence in the position on 30/8/10.

An outcome of the recent review has resulted in a name change and Region of Choice will now be known as "Allied Health Works" along with Mentoringworks and CPDWorks (formally CPD for Allied Health).

A regional project plan for Allied Health Works is currently being finalised.

CPD for Allied Health www.cpdforalliedhealth.org/ CPDworks

Upcoming Presentations:

Kyabram:

6th & 7th Oct 2010

Self Management, Team & Leadership Course (2 days)

If you would like a presentation in your area contact Katie Dopheide
katie.dopheide@greaterhealth.org

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 –

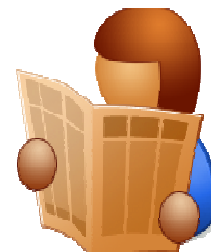
<http://www.vha.org.au/>



Looking for a Job in Loddon Mallee?

Dietetics

- **Northern District Community Health Service (Kerang)** - (F/T) – Grade 1 or 2.



Occupational Therapy

Podiatry

- **Robinvale District Health Service** – (two positions) – (F/T) Grade 1 or 2
- **Swan Hill District Health** – (F/T) – Grade 2

Speech Pathology

- **Bendigo (Private Practice)**

Physiotherapy

- **SCOPE Loddon Mallee** – (P/T or F/T)

Other positions

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

www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au