

West Division Allied Health Workforce Newsletter

18th Edition March 2017

Introduction

Welcome to the 17th Edition of the West Division Allied Health Newsletter!!

As outlined in the previous newsletter, the department has gone through a restructure and we are now the west division and my role has been broadened to include health workforce. There will however continue to be a strong focus on allied health workforce and I will continue to have Grampians Region as the catchment area for my role. I will continue to work closely with the Grampians Region Allied Health Leaders Network to develop priority areas for allied health workforce in the Grampians Region and to oversee activities and actions to address these priority areas.

This newsletter is my opportunity to provide you with updates on the various allied health workforce initiatives and projects that are occurring locally and at a state wide level. At a state-wide level there are updates of the Rural Allied Health Continuing Professional Development Grants, Victorian Allied Health Research Program, the Victorian Allied Health Research Conference, the Strengthening Hospitals Response to Family Violence Project and the Victorian Public Health and Well-being Plan. At a regional level there are updates of the review currently taking place of the Grampians Regional Health Collaborative website (and the allied health section within this), the strategic planning session which took place and will inform the development of the Grampians Region Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan, the launch of the Evidence-based Practice 2: Conducting an Evidence-based Literature Review e-learning module, and the Grampians Allied Health Early Careers Programs (being offered through Ballarat Health Services and Wimmera Health Care Group).

As I always say there is a lot going on in the allied health space and I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Inside this edition

What is happening in allied health in the Grampians Region...

The strategic planning session to develop the Grampians Region Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan (for the next 3 – 4 years)	2
A review of the Grampians Regional Health Collaborative website (including the allied health section)	2
The launch of the Evidence-based Practice 2: Conducting an Evidence-based Literature Review e-learning module	2
Grampians Allied Health Early Careers Program (being offered by Ballarat Health Services and Wimmera Health Care Group)	3

What is happening in allied health at a state-wide level

Continuing Professional Development for Rural Allied Health Practitioners Subsidy Program 2016 / 17	3
Victorian Allied Health Research Program	3
Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015 - 19	3
Strengthening Hospitals Response to Family Violence Project	4

Other allied health workforce projects / initiatives in regional areas

Hume Region Allied Health Conference	4
Final word	4

What is happening in allied health in the Grampians Region...

Strategic Planning session to develop the Grampians Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan (for the next 3 – 4 years)

A strategic planning session was held with managers from across the Grampians Region on Wednesday, March 1.

Purpose: To identify priority areas for the Grampians Region Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan and to implement activities in these areas over the next 3 – 4 years.

Framework and methodology for strategic planning

: This strategic plan will align with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services Strategic Plan. The workshop participants explored 4 key initiatives in this plan and related these to allied health services and workforce in the Grampians Region. These initiatives were : the Victorian public health and well-being plan (2015 – 19), Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence project, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rollout and improving allied health regional collaborations and partnerships (Better, Safer Care). The feedback provided from the workshop will inform the development of the Grampians Region Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan.

An additional follow up consultation is planned with the allied health clinical managers at Ballarat Health Services.

Feedback will also be sought (via a survey) from managers regarding other important areas and activities to include in the strategic plan eg., Implementing the region's interprofessional development strategy.

Governance : The Grampians Allied Health Leaders Network will have a key role in implementing activities in the strategic plan over the life of the plan.

A review of the Grampians Regional Health Collaborative website (including the allied health section)

A meeting was held recently to review the Grampians Regional Health Collaborative website. The meeting explored issues of developing a different model for managing the website which was more sustainable, improving the functionality and look of the website, governance for managing content of the website and other improvements which may be made to the website in the future. I will keep you informed regarding

outcomes of this review. In the meantime you can still access all the same information on the allied health section of the Grampians Regional Health Collaborative website at : <http://www.grhc.org.au/allied-health>.

The launch of the Evidence-based Practice 2: Conducting an Evidence-based Literature Review e-learning module

The Department of Health and Human Services, West Division (Grampians Region) is pleased to announce the launch of the Evidence-based Practice 2: Conducting an Evidence-based Literature Review e-learning module. This is now available to nursing and allied health staff on the Victorian Regional Health Services e-learning Network (ReHSeN) and the Ballarat Health Services e-learning portal. If you are having difficulty accessing the course please contact the ReHSeN (or Ballarat Health Services e-learning portal) administrator at your health service.

I would like to extend my thanks to Helen McBurney for writing the script (for both Evidence Based Practice modules), the course reviewers Rob Townsend (Federation University) and Kylie McKenzie (Ballarat Health Services) and the course editor Allan Donnelly.

The evidence based practice e-learning modules were developed in response to demand from the allied health sector in our region (and across the state) and have been designed to be highly interactive with a workbook provided to embed EBP theory into practice. A brief description of the course is outlined below.

This course is the second of two modules examining evidence-based practice (EBP) and its application to clinical practice. The first module (EBP Part 1: Basic Principles) explored the essential principles of EBP.

This module (EBP Part 2: Conducting an Evidence-based Literature Review) builds on the content and learning activities contained in EBP Part 1. Because of this we strongly recommend you complete EBP Part 1 before commencing this course. In EBP Part 1, you learnt how to use PICO to define a clinical problem related to your practice. In this module, you will learn how to conduct a literature search for key terms related to your PICO question and how to evaluate publications for their research evidence. Essentially, this unit outlines the process for systematically reviewing scientific / research publications and incorporating them into clinical practice guidelines. You will not however be carrying out a full systematic review as this is beyond the scope of this module.

Grampians Allied Health Early Careers Program (previously Grampians Allied Health Graduate Program)

The Grampians Allied Health Early Careers Program has now commenced for 2017. This program is offered to new allied health graduate staff as well as early career allied health professionals who would benefit from participation in the programs. Congratulations to Ballarat Health Services and Wimmera Health Care Group for developing and delivering these programs in the eastern and western parts of the Grampians Region. The program is a fantastic opportunity for allied health staff early in their career to develop interprofessional skills and knowledge and to network with their allied health colleagues. For further information on these programs visit the website at: <http://www.grhc.org.au/allied-health/ah-professional-development>.

Victorian State-wide Allied Health initiatives

Continuing Professional Development for Rural Allied Health Practitioners Program 2016 / 17

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Subsidy Fund is available to assist allied health practitioners working in rural Victoria to participate in conferences and skills development opportunities relevant to the development and provision of rural health services.

For further information, including the guidelines and applications, please visit:

<https://www.rwav.com.au/professional-development/grants/>.

If you are considering continuing professional development and meet the criteria outlined on the website I would encourage you to put in an application prior to the end of the financial year.

Victorian Allied Health Research Program

Allied Health Workforce Questionnaire

About this survey

Victorian allied health practitioners, employers and managers are invited to identify issues that influence the accessibility and effectiveness of allied health workforce in Victoria.

The survey is specifically designed for *psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers* who have ever worked in Victoria. The questionnaire also seeks input from *current employers or managers of Victorian*

psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers. Other professions are being surveyed separately. If you meet this criteria please complete the survey at:

https://scuau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2lqXhHTlnraHp7T.

About this project

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) commissioned this three year project, which commenced in 2015. The findings will be provided to your profession's association, through social media and other publications. Further information is available from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/health-workforce/allied-health-workforce/allied-health-research>.

Closing date for questionnaire

The closing date for the questionnaire is midnight on the 7th April 2017

Victorian public health and well-being plan 2015 - 19

The Victorian public health and well-being plan 2015 – 19 outlines the Victorian government's key priorities over a 4 year period to improve the health and well-being of all Victorians, particularly the most disadvantaged.

As many chronic diseases are preventable, the plan focuses on supporting health living from the early years and throughout life.

The health and well-being priorities for 2015 – 19 are:

- healthy eating and active living
- tobacco-free living
- reducing harmful alcohol and drug use
- improving mental health
- preventing violence and injury
- Improving sexual and reproductive health

The plan also identifies the importance of maintaining healthy environments and responding to the impacts of climate change on people's health and well-being.

For further information on the plan please visit the web page at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/public-health-wellbeing-plan>.

Please note the Victorian public health and well-being plan and its relevance to regional allied health workforce and services will be one focus area in the

Grampians Region Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan.

Strengthening Hospital Response to Family Violence Project

The Strengthening Hospital Response to Family Violence (SHRFV) project targets frontline clinical staff and the key outcomes of the project are to 1. Introduce practices into hospitals which support people experiencing family violence to seek help and 2. Ensure that clinical staff feel confident and have the capacity, to provide the necessary supports and referrals.

This project employs a project worker (Anna Grimes, Family Violence Project Coordinator) through Ballarat Health Services to support rural health services in the Grampians Region implement strategies using the tools from the SHRFV project to strengthen their hospital's response to family violence. The tools which were developed by the Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne in conjunction with Bendigo Health are available on the website at: <https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/clinical-resources/strengthening-hospitals-response-to-family-violence/>.

Again, this project and its relevance to regional allied health workforce and services will be another focus area for the Grampians Region Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan.

Other allied health workforce projects / initiatives in regional areas

Hume Region Health Conference

Topic: Hume Region Health Conference

Date: 22 – 23 June 2017

Location / venue: Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Resort

Description: The Hume Region Health Conference provides an opportunity for participants to share ideas, expertise and experiences around areas of health care, professional development and research to achieve quality health outcomes.

Who should attend?

- All disciplines including nursing and allied health professionals
- Students
- Allied Health Assistants
- Academics
- Educators

- Public Servants and policy makers

Further information:

<http://goingruralhealth.com.au/events/hume-region-health-conference/>

Registration:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=266775>

Final word...

For those wanting to contribute to future newsletters please contact me on dean.taylor@dhhs.vic.gov.au or mobile 0437 946 487.

With school holidays and Easter coming up, I hope everyone has the chance to have a nice break over the holidays!!!

