



# Clinician Connect



Pictured: Tanya Hazlewood, Natalie Wilson, Wayne Phillips, Karen Tokutake, Paul Chay. Check out the Nutrition report on page 11 for more information. Photo: T Hazlewood.

- 01 Guest Editorial
- 03 Comment by Chief Executive
- 04 Queen's Birthday Honour List
- 04 Farewell Kate
- 04 Stroke
- 05 Aged Health
- 06 Anaesthesia Perioperative Care
- 06 Blood and Marrow Transplant
- 06 Brain Injury
- 08 Cardiac
- 08 Community Engagement
- 09 Emergency Care Institute
- 10 Endocrine
- 10 Gastroenterology
- 10 Nutrition
- 11 Gynaecological Oncology
- 12 Intellectual Disability
- 12 Musculoskeletal
- 14 Radiology
- 14 Nuclear Medicine
- 15 Neurosurgery
- 16 Ophthalmology
- 16 Pain Management
- 17 Renal
- 17 Respiratory
- 18 Spinal Cord Injury
- 18 Burn Injury
- 19 Transition Care
- 20 Urology
- 21 HETI
- 21 Cancer Institute NSW
- 22 Bureau of Health Information
- 22 Contact Us/Feedback

## GUEST EDITORIAL



Pictured: Robert Herkes

**DR ROBERT HERKES** MB BS, FRACP, FCICM  
State Medical Director NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service  
Director Intensive Care Unit Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH)

### Why I am passionate about Organ Donation Reforms for NSW

NSW has some of the best Intensive Care Units (ICUs) in the world and we are passionate about delivering cutting edge care to our patients. However, NSW also has the lowest organ donation rate of any state in Australia.

While this is undoubtedly multi-factorial, organ donation in NSW is so uncommon that ICU consultants rarely have donation conversations. Re-engineering of current work processes within ICU is needed to allow and promote specialisation in donation conversations and to ensure the appropriate level of information and support is provided to potential donor families.

In 2009 the Australian Government established the Australian Organ and Tissue Authority (AOTA) to implement world's best practice in organ and tissue donation, known as the 'National Reform Agenda'. This agenda saw the enhancement of state and territory based DonateLife agencies to oversee the employment of 161 medical and nursing specialists to increase organ and tissue donation across 77 hospitals within Australia.

Since the implementation, Australia has seen a 36% increase in organ donation from deceased persons over the last two years, with a total of 337 donors in 2011 (Source: Australia and New

Zealand Organ Donor (ANZOD) Registry.) This has resulted in just over 1,000 recipients receiving long awaited transplantation in 2011, the highest number since implementation of the reform.

However, when analysing the data it is clear that this growth is not even across all jurisdictions. While states like Victoria and South Australia are leading the charge with 19.0 donors per million population (dpmp) and 21.1 dpmp respectively, NSW remains at only 10.9 dpmp.

#### Why is NSW dragging the chain?

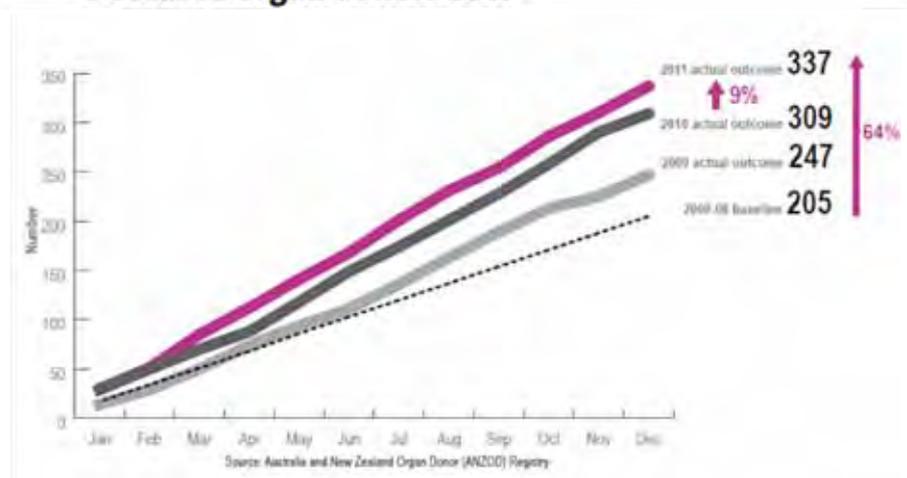
It is clear NSW has lower absolute organ donation rates and has had a lower increase in donation rates compared to other jurisdictions.

Audits of all deaths in major hospitals show that NSW has comparable numbers of patients with brain death in its hospitals, and has similar overall survival rates to other states. There are not significant numbers of potential donors unrecognised in our Emergency Departments and Intensive Care Units.

#### So what is it that is different in NSW?

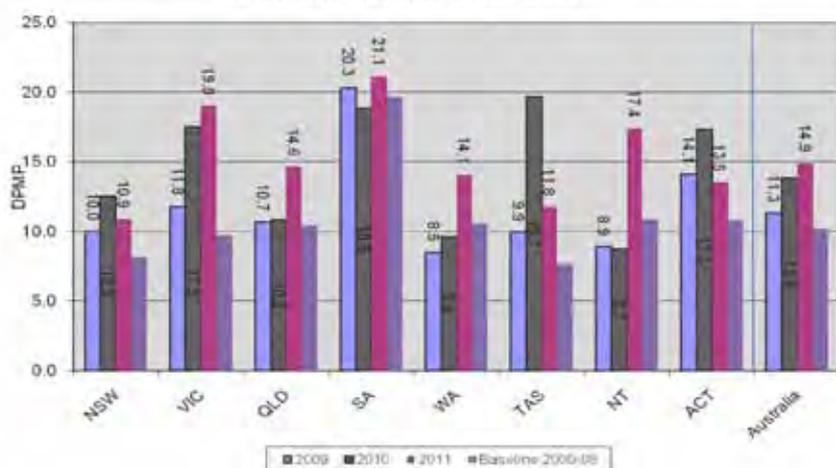
Many of the other jurisdictions removed their driver's licence donor registries some time

## Deceased organ donors 2011



Australia has moved from a 2000 – 2008 baseline of 10.2 donors per million population (dpmp) to 14.9 dpmp in 2011.

Deceased Organ Donors Per Million Population: National and Jurisdiction Rates: 2000-2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011



Baseline figures in chart: NSW 8.2; Vic 9.7; Qld 10.4; SA 19.6; WA 10.5; Tas 7.6; NT 10.9; ACT 10.8 and Australia 10.2

ago, deciding to align with the single Australian Organ Donor Registry (AODR) that is managed by Medicare. However NSW retains its driver's licence registry. There are just over 4.9 million people with licences in NSW, with 50% registering consent to be an organ donor, 27% registering a refusal, and 23% not answering the question. This high licence-based refusal rate does not tally with the AODR refusal rate of below 1% and may not reflect fully informed consent or objection to donation.

Beyond the driver's licence registry, we know from audit data that NSW has a poor consent rate, which can be influenced by a number of factors.

In 2011, there were a total of 14,121 deaths in audited NSW Hospitals. Of these deaths only 215 patients fit the guidelines to be potential organ donors (1.52%). ICUs approached the families of 183 (85%) of these patients with a request for organ donation, with 49% refusing. Of these refusals, 33% were licence based refusals (previously known as the RTA Register) and 62% were family refusals. This means that if consent rates remained unchanged but licence based refusals could be approached for donation, in 2011 NSW could have achieved around a 17% increase in donor numbers. A 17% increase in NSW donors

would equate to an additional 13 donors, bringing the national outcome from 337 donors to 350.

### High Performing Hospitals in NSW

Organ donation performance across NSW varies greatly between hospitals. Higher performing hospitals in NSW demonstrate a range of factors, including:

- A strong cohesive team, with established processes, well practiced in organ donation
- Strong clinical buy-in from within ICU, ED, Theatre and all hospital staff
- Senior Executive leadership and commitment with regular meetings and reporting on donation and transplantation to the Executive and within clinical governance frameworks
- Active community engagement with awareness and education programs to suit their community.

Establishing a strong organ donation team takes time, and optimising organ donation needs to become everybody's issue.

The NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service (NSWOTDS) is implementing a range of strategies to drive reform and improve organ donation rates within NSW. A key focus of this reform will be improving consent through the ongoing

implementation of focused training for general ICU, ED, and hospital staff and the training and certification of 'designated requestors'.

The literature suggests there are a number of factors that influence successful consent conversations, including:

- The timing of the request, which needs to be held after end of life conversations and only following family acceptance of the death.
- Consent conversations are difficult and need to be planned among all members of the care team.
- Requesting should be conducted by a trained and skilled requestor, who has experience in family conversations, and has the time to spend with the family, to listen and deal with the family's issues. The requestor must also understand the impacts of grief on families.
- Respecting family autonomy and family empowerment to make the right decision for that family.

### Designated Requestor Trial

In NSW we will commence implementation of the 'Designated Requestor' trial where a small group of 2-3 doctors, nurses or social workers in each major hospital will receive intensive training in end of life and consent conversations. This training is based on courses developed by the Gift of Life Institute (GoLI) in Philadelphia, and will include theoretical and practical workshops with video reflective learning. A senior clinical mentor will have oversight of the conversations and provide mentoring and coaching.

The evaluation is likely to be informed by attitudinal surveys of hospital staff, ongoing real time audit of conversations by an observer using a standardised check list, timing of the conversation including initiation and duration, staff and requestor satisfaction and rates of consent. In addition a three month telephone follow up with the next of kin will look at anxiety, depression, and post traumatic stress indicators in the family.

The Hon. Jillian Skinner, NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, released a discussion paper in December 2011, *Increasing Organ Donation in NSW* to seek community views on strategies for improving organ donation rates. Key areas of discussion included: a review of the NSW Registry, family overrides, opt out model, paired kidney exchange, eye & tissue banks and the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. A large number of submissions were received in response to this paper and it is anticipated the Government response is expected to soon be available.

We are passionate about delivering cutting edge care to our patients, and we have some of the best intensive care units in the world, but we lag behind our state and territory partners and the world when it comes to organ donation and transplantation rates.

As a proud advocate for our donation services I believe it is important that we achieve world's best practice in organ and tissue donation to respect the dignity of the deceased donor and their family and improve the quality of life for the many people in NSW awaiting transplantation.

**Robert Herkes**

[References available on request](#)

## We are making rapid progress in building a stronger, more sustainable ACI for the future.



Pictured: Dr Nigel Lyons

to enhance the skills, expertise and capability we need to drive innovation and improve patient outcomes across NSW. The new structure provides a sustainable framework on which to build and develop our future as the ACI.

Introducing our Clinical Lead, Directors and their portfolios:

- **Clinical Lead – Dr Tracey Tay** is a staff specialist anaesthetist and has been the Clinical Lead for the Innovation Support Unit for Hunter New England Health, supporting clinicians and managers to redesign services to improve care for patients. Tracey's passion to enhance sustainable leadership by clinicians will ensure we remain focused on what is important to our clinicians and patients to improve health outcomes for the community.
- **Director of Acute Care – Daniel Comerford** brings more than 20 years experience in the NSW Health system, with a focus on acute care and emergency management. Most recently, involved in the Health Service Performance Improvement team as an Area Performance Manager and Project Director of the statewide Program, Daniel has supported the work of the Ministerial Taskforce for Emergency Care. Daniel has a Bachelor in Health Management and continues to explore National and International best practice models of care for the NSW setting.
- **Director Corporate Services – Lisa Cox** has 10 years experience working in health care administration in public and private health care entities in Australia and the UK. Most recently Lisa worked as the Shared Services Manager for the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Teaching/ Bachelor of Health and Physical Education (Hons), a Master of Public Health and a Master of Health Management.
- **Director Engagement, Executive Support and Communications – Maeve Eikli** has extensive experience in providing high level executive and communications support to engage consumers, clinicians, health

I am pleased to introduce the newly appointed Clinical Lead and team of Directors to the ACI. These new roles add a critical component in supporting our clinical networks and taskforces and build on ACI's successful team

managers, industry, researchers, the wider community and media. Maeve has been instrumental in building ACI's capacity to engage consumers and the wider community through the ACI-AIHI Community Engagement Research Project. Maeve is a certified IAP2 engagement practitioner with the International Association of Public Participation.

- **Director Surgery, Anaesthesia and Critical Care – Professor Donald MacLellan** completed his science and medical degrees at Glasgow University before training in General Surgery in Melbourne. Donald has held the positions of Professor of Surgery at both the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney. Recently as the statewide Program Director of Surgery he has worked extensively with the Surgical Services Taskforce, Local Health Districts, and other clinical Networks to make significant improvements in surgical service delivery over the past 7 years.
- **Director Primary Care and Chronic Services – Chris Shipway** brings more than 30 years experience including management and leadership positions of Associate Director of Drug and Alcohol Clinical Policy, Associate Director of Mental Health Clinical Policy, and Acting Director of Primary Health, Community Partnerships and Chronic Disease in the NSW Health system. Chris originally trained as a nurse and a social worker and has a Master of Public Administration.
- **Director Clinical Program Design and Implementation – Raj Verma** has been involved in working with clinicians, managers, executives and patients in improving health systems for the past 13 years. Raj has delivered many large scale projects through structured project management, significant stakeholder engagement, and a focus on deliverables and results. Raj has worked to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care services through new models of care at almost every point of the patient journey.

Each clinical network and taskforce now sits within a portfolio, with the ability to work in collaboration and across portfolios enhanced and strongly encouraged. This increases our ability to implement evidence based models of care and better support Local Health Districts to drive improvements in health care for patients in NSW.

We have continued to make significant progress on the ACI's strategic plan and direction for the next 3 years. We have openly consulted with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. We outlined our progress to the Board in May and we aim to have our strategic plan finalised by the end of June. I thank everyone who has provided input and contributed to the future direction of the ACI.

Our focus remains on working collaboratively and engaging our partners - clinicians, managers, patients and carers and our new structure provides a unique and exciting opportunity to work together to make a difference in providing improved health outcomes for patients.

For more details on ACI's new structure, Clinical Lead and team of Directors, visit:

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/our-people](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/our-people)



The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) was established by the NSW Government as a board-governed statutory health corporation in January 2010, in direct response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals.

The ACI drives innovation across the system by using the expertise of its Clinical Networks to develop and implement evidence-based standards for the treatment and care of patients.

## BOARD

### Chair

Brian McCaughan

### Members

Lee Ausburn

Ken Barker

Melinda Conrad

Andrew Cooke

Robyn Kruk

Carol Pollock

Tomas Raton

Richard Matthews

Janice Reid

Gabriel Shannon

Nigel Lyons

To find out more about the NSW Agency of Clinical Innovation and its Clinical Networks visit our website online at:

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

### Agency for Clinical Innovation

Tower A, Level 15, Zenith Centre  
821-843 Pacific Highway  
Chatswood NSW 2067

Ph: +61 2 8644 2200

Fax: +61 2 8644 2148

Postal address: PO Box 699  
Chatswood NSW 2057

## COMMENT CONT'D

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Fidy Westgarth, ACI Renal Network Manager, and Denise O'Shaughnessy, ACI Renal Network Co-Chair, for being crowned Kidney Health 'Angels' at the recent Kidney Health Australia Angel Awards. The success of the Renal

### DR NIGEL LYONS

Network is a testament of the hard work and dedication of these ladies in helping to improve kidney services.

Congratulations also to Lyn March, Co-Chair of the ACI Musculoskeletal Network, for being selected as a finalist for the NSW Premier's Woman of the

Year Award 2012. Lyn was selected as one of four finalists from over 200 nominations. We are delighted to have such dedicated leaders of health innovation as part of the ACI.

**Dr Nigel Lyons**  
[nigel.lyons@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nigel.lyons@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOUR LIST:

Congratulations to the following members of the ACI, who were recognised for their achievements in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honour List:

- Karen Crawshaw, for outstanding public service as the Deputy Director General, Governance Workforce and Corporate within NSW Health
- Michael Feneley, Professor of Medicine and Cardiology, for service to medicine in the field of cardiology as a clinician, researcher and educator, through contributions to professional organisations, and to the community
- John Roach, for outstanding public service to public sector financial management and accountability in New South Wales
- Michael Field, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, for service to medical education as an academic and teacher, particularly in the field of nephrology, as a clinician, and through contributions to a range of professional organisations
- Anne Keogh, Professor of Medicine and Cardiology, for service to medicine in the field of

cardiac transplantation, advanced heart failure and pulmonary hypertension as a clinician and researcher, to professional associations, and to the community in the area of animal welfare

- Raymond Raper, Doctor of Intensive Care, for service to medicine in the field of intensive care as a clinician, researcher and educator, and through contributions to professional associations
- Bruce Robinson, Professor of Medicine, for service to medicine in the field of endocrinology as a clinician, researcher and university administrator, and through the establishment and leadership of the Hoc Mai Australian Vietnam Medical Foundation
- Dominic Brock Rowe, Professor of Neurology, for service to medicine in the field of neurology through contributions to people with Motor Neurone Disease and Parkinson's Disease as a clinician, researcher, educator and administrator
- Jonathan Stretch, Associate Professor of Surgery, for service to medicine and to the community as a plastic surgeon and oncologist and through Melanoma Institute Australia

## FAREWELL KATE



Pictured: Kate Needham

After 11 years of involvement, dedication and commitment to the ACI and its preceding entities, Kate Needham, Executive Director, has announced her resignation from the ACI.

Kate has been instrumental in the ACI

from the beginning, leading the creation of new clinical networks and successfully increasing the number from 14 to 24. She has also continually championed the research potential of the ACI and promoted the concept of clinical networks translating 'evidence into practice'.

Kate has shown incredible support to staff and colleagues over the years and she will be greatly missed by her colleagues. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Kate for her commitment and the outstanding role she has played in shaping and bringing the ACI to where it is today.

Clinical Network Report

## STROKE

Co-Chairs: Sandra Lever and Michael Pollack

Heartmoves is a low to moderate intensity exercise program specifically designed to be safe for people with lifestyle risk factors or stable long term health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis and obesity.

Heartmoves is also suitable for anyone who hasn't exercised in a while as each person can exercise at their own pace in a friendly environment.

Heartmoves is delivered by trained, licensed and accredited exercise professionals including fitness instructors, physiotherapists and exercise physiologists, who have completed the Heartmoves training developed by health and fitness professionals and accredited by National bodies including ESSA, APA, Fitness Australia and Physical Activity Australia.

Heartmoves also has a brand new reaccreditation module, **Heartmoves for Stroke** which is an online module developed in partnership between the Heart Foundation and National Stroke Foundation, providing our

accredited Heartmoves leaders with additional skills and knowledge on how health teams are currently managing stroke survivors.

The module is presented by Dr Catherine Dean – BappSc (Physiotherapy), MA, PhD, Dr Amanda Nagle – B.Sc (Applied Psych) Hons, PhD and Heartmoves Master trainer Deborah Huff – BSc(hons), Dip Ed, Grad Dip Health Promotion, Cert III/IV Fitness and covers:

- Stroke and current management practices
- The impact of stroke on stroke survivors and strategies to support stroke survivors
- Evidence based best practice to support delivery of safe exercise programs
- Opportunities to market Heartmoves program to the stroke community



To find out more about Heartmoves contact Kamilla Haufort, Training Support Officer for NSW [kamilla.haufort@heartfoundation.org.au](mailto:kamilla.haufort@heartfoundation.org.au) or +61 22 9219 2479 or visit [www.heartfoundation.org.au/heartmoves](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/heartmoves).

**Contact: Mark Longworth**  
**Ph: +61 2 8644 2188**  
[mark.longworth@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.longworth@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/stroke](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/stroke)



Pictured: Viki Brummell

## NEW CO-CHAIR

The Aged Health Network would like to welcome Viki Brummell, who will be joining Jacqui Close as Co-Chair of the Network. Viki is a trained social worker with extensive experience in aged care. She is currently working as the Network Manager of the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services Clinical Network, Hunter New England Local Health District. Viki will bring to the role immense knowledge of aged care services across the system and the challenges of delivering healthcare in regional and rural NSW.

## Minimising restraint use

The Minimising Restraint Use Working Group would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the draft policy, procedures and toolkit. The Working Group will consider all comments received and incorporate as appropriate. Once finalised, the documents will be sent to the Ministry of Health requesting formal comment from LHDs.



Pictured: (l-r) Nick Brennan, Anne Moehead, Jackie Wesson, Natasha Spalding, Sue Schasser, Basil Smagala, and Cath Batema. Photo:

## DEMENTIA EXPERT FORUM

The NSW Dementia Expert Forum was held on 16 and 17 April at the Mercure Hotel Sydney.

This event was a partnership between the ACI Aged Health Network, the NSW Dementia Policy Team, the Dementia Carers Disability Team, Aged Care Integration Unit, Older Peoples Mental Health Unit, and Ageing, Disability and Home Care. The purpose of the forum was to bring together leaders of dementia and delirium care in both community and hospital settings across NSW to promote implementation of the NSW Dementia Services Framework and showcase local initiatives.

More than 150 people from NSW attended with all Local Health districts represented. In addition, ACI hosted internet conferencing to Albury, Ballina, Batemans Bay, Broken Hill, Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Armidale and Tweed Heads.

Thank you to the following Network members for presenting at the forum as representatives of the ACI: Cath Bateman, Anthea Temple, Natasha Spalding, Barbara Lewis, Jason Mook, Basil Smagala, Julia Poole, Jackie Wesson, Nick Brennan, Sue Schasser, Kelli Flowers and Margaret Perkins. Presentations will be made available on the dementia e-learning site: <http://elearning.ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au>



Pictured: (l-r): Joanne MacMillan, Anne Hoolahan, and Emily Barnabas. Photo:

## CARE OF THE CONFUSED HOSPITALISED OLDER PERSONS STUDY

The Care of the Confused Hospitalised Older Person Study has now concluded and a detailed report is being prepared. Key outcomes of the study include increased knowledge of delirium, increased screening for delirium and the development of a Care of the Confused Hospitalised Older Person DVD, presentations and resources, which will be hosted on the ACI website.

Discussions are now underway on the most effective way to promote and implement the Care of the Confused Hospitalised Older Person Study in other facilities.

## ALLIED HEALTH SUBGROUP

The Allied Health Clinical Innovation and Research in Aged Health Forum will be held on Tuesday, 3 July 2012 at the Sydney Children's Hospital Lecture Theatre, Randwick. The forum will showcase allied health initiatives in clinical practice, quality improvement and research programs, as well as providing an opportunity for delegates to network. This event is aimed at doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and managers who work in NSW health services and consumers contributing to ACI networks.

The closing date for registrations is Friday, 22 June 2012. If you would like to participate by videoconference/ webex, please contact the Network Manager by close of registration. More information about the forum can be found at [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/events/allied-health-clinical-innovation-and-research-in-aged-health](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/events/allied-health-clinical-innovation-and-research-in-aged-health).

Contact: Glen Pang  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2181  
[Glen.Pang@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Glen.Pang@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/aged-health](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/aged-health)

## Nursing Subgroup

The nursing subgroup held their second meeting of the year on Tuesday, 22 May 2012 to discuss future work that aligns with the priorities of the network.

One project identified is to develop supportive tools for clinical staff and managers about one to one nursing in the care of the confused hospitalised older person. If you would like to contribute to this work please contact the Network Manager.

## ORTHOGERIATRIC COLLABORATIVE

The Clinical Excellence Commission has recently released their Patient Safety Report: *Fractured Hip Surgery in the Elderly*. The full report can be accessed at [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/\\_documents/programs/patient-safety/patient-safety-report-hip-fractures-1.pdf](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/_documents/programs/patient-safety/patient-safety-report-hip-fractures-1.pdf).

The *Fractured Hip Surgery in the Elderly* report supports the need for the ACI orthogeriatric model of care, which can be viewed at [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/153400/aci\\_orthogeriatrics\\_clinical\\_practice\\_guide.pdf](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/153400/aci_orthogeriatrics_clinical_practice_guide.pdf).

## ASSISTANT TO THE ANAESTHETIST WORKING GROUP

The Assistants to the Anaesthetist Working Group recently reached an agreement with Queensland Health's Statewide Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Clinical Network (SWAPNET) to access its core competencies.

In 2008, SWAPNET invited a diverse group of health professionals to develop a consensus statement regarding the minimum educational requirements for the role of anaesthetic support officers. The ACI Anaesthesia Perioperative Care Network will work with key partners in NSW to further advance the work undertaken in Queensland.

Contact: Ellen Rawstron

Ph: +61 2 8644 2185

[Ellen.Rawstron@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Ellen.Rawstron@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/anaesthesia](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/anaesthesia)

## NEW MEMBER OF THE TEAM

Welcome to Tracy Clarke, who has joined the BMT Network as the Malignant Haematology Project Officer.

Tracy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, having worked for more than 10 years as a Clinical Nurse Consultant in BMT and Haematology units. Her extensive experience includes the inpatient and outpatient care of people with malignant and non malignant haematological conditions, as well as working in apheresis and Bone Marrow Transplant units.

## NETWORK EXPANSION INTO MALIGNANT HAEMATOLOGY

The ACI Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Network, first established in 2002 as the NSW BMT Network, has been extremely successful in providing governance to clinical activities and support for the development of guidelines, protocols, clinical education, research and patient information. The Network also provides a quality management service for apheresis and BMT.

The ACI BMT Network is now looking to expand the network to include malignant haematology and develop models of care for haematological malignancies, commencing with a 12 month project on acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

A BMT Network which includes malignant haematology will provide many benefits for both health care professionals and patients. These benefits include:

- a stronger and more unified forum for broader aspects of Haematology
- streamlining groups that have a strong interest in both BMT and the broader spectrum of malignant haematology

- providing a forum for network members to focus on key priority areas that impact on clinical practice and develop strategies for system wide clinical improvement and service development
- expanded opportunities for professional development, collaborative research and teaching for complex issues relating to malignant haematology as well as BMT
- optimising quality and consistency in care through greater use of care pathways and evidence based practice
- seamless transfer of care throughout the patient's journey

A working party has been convened with medical, nursing and allied health representatives from Royal North Shore, St Vincent's, Prince of Wales, Concord, Westmead Children's, Liverpool, Gosford, Newcastle Mater and Port Macquarie Hospitals. The working group's first meeting was held on Friday, 25 May 2012 and provided robust discussion regarding the project direction and models of care in malignant haematology.

Consultation with haematology clinicians across NSW is currently in progress. These consultations will include medical, nursing and allied health professionals and are aimed at identifying the current challenges faced in providing care for patients with a haematological malignancy, the goals and key priorities clinicians would like to see from an expanded network for malignant haematology and how they would like to see working groups and membership structured.

More information will become available on the ACI website as this project progresses. To schedule a consultation or provide feedback, contact Tracy Clarke on +61 2 8644 2265, M: 0409 204 346 or Email: [Tracy.Clarke@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tracy.Clarke@aci.health.nsw.gov.au).

Contact: Graeme Still

Ph: +61 2 8644 2193

[graeme.still@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:graeme.still@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/blood-marrow-transplant](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/blood-marrow-transplant)

## THE TAMWORTH TLU MUSTER 2012

The ACI Brain Injury Rehabilitation Directorate (BIRD) Network supports a biannual forum for staff working in the eight Transitional Living Units (TLU), which provide specialised rehabilitation to clients (primarily adult) admitted to the NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program (BIRP).

These forums aim to:

- Improve the care of clients with traumatic brain injury admitted to transitional rehabilitation programs.
- Continue to develop and update the skills and knowledge of the TLU staff
- Share knowledge and experiences across the network by exploring current practices and new initiatives in brain injury rehabilitation
- Facilitate ongoing networking and sharing of resources and information between the ACI BIRD and TLU staff.

## THE TAMWORTH TLU MUSTER 2012 CONT'D



Pictured: Attendees at the Tamworth TLU Muster 2012. Photo: D Jackson

Eight of the eleven adult BIRP services include a Transitional Living Unit (visit [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/) for locations and services). The forum host and venue rotates between TLU locations.

The New England Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service (NEBIRS) was the host for the 2012 forum at the All Seasons Tamworth Towers Conference Centre and Motel on the 29 and 30 March. The gathering was aptly named the Tamworth TLU Muster 2012 and 23 people (pictured) attended. Seven metropolitan staff were sponsored by the ACI to attend the event, and the Motor Accident Authority of NSW also provided grant funds to support the forum.

This year's forum provided opportunities for delegates to network, visit the NEBIRS and TLU at Tamworth Hospital, and to share information and new initiatives from each TLU. Invited local

speakers were a focus of the program with short one hour sessions on a range of topics including advocacy, guardianship and family resilience, with two longer interactive sessions on art as therapy and driver assessment. An overview was provided about the organisational structure of ACI, the roles of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Directorate (BIRD) Network and summary information about clients admitted to the BIRP, with a focus on describing TLU clients and their outcomes from admission to discharge.

Jason Stavert (pictured) was supported by the NEBIRS social worker to share his story. He explained the circumstances of his injury, how this changed his life and the role of the TLU and NEBIRS staff in assisting him to improve and move forward. Jason's key messages for staff at the forum were to listen, assist people to understand and support them to learn through experience.

Evaluations received from forum participants rated the forum very highly overall, with 18 (90%) rating it as excellent and 2 (10%) as very good. Delegates found that the sessions were relevant to their everyday work, exploring other government and community services and how these can be used by their

clients to support rehabilitation goals. Delegates also reported that they gained an insight into the similarities and differences of how other programs operate to achieve similar client outcomes.

The Network would like to thank Darren Jackson and Peter Cryer, TLU Living Skills Assistants at NEBIRS, for their hard work in ensuring the success of this year's forum.



Pictured: Jason Stavert.  
Photo: B Strettles

## TRANSITIONAL LIVING REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE

The TLU Muster also included meetings of the BIRD transitional living reference group, attended by the eight TLU managers/coordinators, the BIRD network manager and the outcomes manager.

The focus of the meetings was the presentation of 2009-2011 TLU Outcome data and discussions arising from the preliminary analysis. Available information includes data on who is admitted to TLU's, time post injury, the type and severity of their injury, how it has affected their lives, the services offered and the impact of services on outcome. The next step for the group is to consider how to use the evaluation of outcome data to manage transitional rehabilitation processes, pathways and services to improve the experience and outcomes of admitted clients. The issues will be further explored after the analysis is completed at a workshop and in the regular meetings of the reference group.

## NEW PAEDIATRIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Paediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation Forum is a new initiative of the ACI Brain Injury Rehabilitation Directorate Paediatric Reference Group, which is comprised of clinicians working in the NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program (BIRP).

Planned as a biannual event, the forum will aim to allow clinicians to network and share initiatives and ideas in order to support changes in clinical practice. All staff working in the paediatric brain injury rehabilitation field are welcome to attend.

The inaugural forum is being held at the Sydney Children's Hospital Network Randwick Campus

over two days to meet education and planning needs. The Paediatric Services planning day on Monday 25 June 2012 is for BIRP Coordinators/Managers and ACI brain injury rehabilitation clinical network staff. Issues identified in recent clinician surveys will inform discussion and translate into actions for the next Paediatric Reference Group work plan.

The second day of the forum is an education day which will include a morning workshop on working with older adolescents and their families, and presentations by BIRP clinicians about current research initiatives. The final session is a discussion

on translating knowledge into change practices.

Registrations are open and information can be obtained by contacting Clare Walker, Acting Coordinator, Brain Injury & Rehabilitation Program Sydney Children's Hospital Network on ph: +61 2 9382 1500 and email: [clare.walker@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clare.walker@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au), or the Network Manager.

**Contact: Barbara Strettles**  
**Ph: +61 2 8644 6133**  
[barbara.strettles@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:barbara.strettles@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/brain-injury-rehabilitation](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/brain-injury-rehabilitation)

## Chronic Heart Failure Development Day

The ACI Cardiac Network held a Continuing Professional Development day on Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Management on Tuesday, 5 June 2012.

Presentations included a discussion on the Updated Clinical Service Framework for Heart Failure by Geoffrey Tofler, Co-Chair of the Cardiac Network's Chronic Cardiovascular Clinical Expert Reference Group, as well as a presentation on overcoming the challenges of providing comprehensive care for patients with CHF in rural NSW by Ian Spencer, a General Practitioner with over 20 years experience in the

rural setting. Peter Macdonald from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute also presented on advanced management of CHF including devices, transplantation and emerging therapies.

Presentations were broadcast from three different locations to nine rural and regional sites across the state via videoconference, with other sites viewing the presentations as a live webcast.

Six locations across the state will now follow up with locally facilitated workshops to address the challenge of transferring the current best practice guidelines into improvements in clinical care and outcomes for patients with CHF locally. For all enquiries or to register to view the presentations via webcast email the Network Manager.

## Deactivation of Implantable Cardiac Defibrillators at End of Life

The Working Party met with a range of manufacturers on Friday, 4 May 2012 to discuss strategies to assist clinicians in rural areas with deactivation of devices at the end of life. The manufacturers agreed to have their toll free (1800) numbers included in the ACI guidelines, and a range of other strategies such as educational resources for clinicians and patients were also discussed.

## SNAPSHOT ACS

The Snapshot Acute Coronary Syndromes study took place in Australia and New Zealand from Monday, 14 May to Sunday, 27 May, 2012. A total of 450 hospitals in Australia and New Zealand participated in the study, with the ACI Cardiac Network coordinating efforts in NSW hospitals. Most of the data will be entered retrospectively and it is expected that initial analysis will occur in July. Preliminary results will be presented at the Cardiac Society Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) Annual meeting in August 2012.

The researchers and state coordinators would like to thank the many clinicians and managers from public and private hospitals who assisted and participated in the study. The Steering Committee would also like to acknowledge the support of the George Institute for Global Health, the CSANZ, the Heart Foundation and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Contact: Bridie Carr  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2158  
bridie.carr@aci.health.nsw.gov.au  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/cardiac](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/cardiac)

## CV CERG Project Officer

Farewell to Gerard Duck, Cardiovascular Clinical Expert Reference Group (CV CERG) Project Officer, who has accepted a position as Health Service Planning Officer, Planning, Performance & Redesign Unit, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, based at the University of Wollongong. The Cardiac Network CV CERG and ACI Executive would like to thank Gerard for his hard work and support during his time with the ACI and wish him well in his future role.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

The ACI Community Engagement Research Project (CERP) is continuing to progress, with a meta-analysis of existing systematic reviews on consumer and community engagement within health recently completed.

The CERP meta-review *Community Engagement: A Review of the Literature* has mapped out the field as it currently stands and has identified the gaps, concepts, facilitators and barriers to engaging consumers and communities in healthcare services and research.

What emerges from the evidence is a model that identifies eight different areas that should be explored to facilitate implementation of effective consumer and community engagement strategies. The ACI will now test this model in three projects designed to extend engagement to vulnerable groups focusing on: (1) communication with culturally and linguistically diverse communities affected by stroke and chronic disease; (2) how best to capture the views of consumers/

communities affected by hepatitis C; (3) and the engagement of consumers/communities with intellectual disability.

Summary monographs will be developed to distil the key findings from the literature on consumer/community engagement models; knowledge management strategies aimed at the community; and evaluation. These monographs and updates on progress with the CERP project will be provided through the ACI website at

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/consumers/best-practice-in-community-engagement](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/consumers/best-practice-in-community-engagement).

To provide feedback please contact Ashley Langton, Senior Communications Officer, on Email: [ashley.langton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ashley.langton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au).

## Congratulations Maeve, Welcome Anna

A big congratulations to Maeve Eikli, ACI Director of Engagement, Executive Support and Communications, who gave birth to Amy Eikli (3.6kg, 48cm) on Wednesday, 9 May 2012. Mum and bub are doing well and enjoying a well earned rest!

Welcome to Anna Nicholes, who is filling in for Maeve while she is on maternity leave. Anna has extensive experience in communications and is currently on secondment from the media department at the NSW Ministry of Health, where she has worked for the past three and a half years. Anna is also completing her Master of Arts in Communication Management at the University of Technology, Sydney.

# ACI CONSUMER FORUM

On Thursday, 26 April 2012, the Agency for Clinical Innovation hosted a 'Looking to the Future' Consumer Forum at the Dougherty Community Centre in Chatswood. Consumers from all 24 clinical networks and representatives from contributing non government organisations (NGOs) were invited to attend the morning to discuss the latest changes and consumer activities of the ACI.

The forum provided a fantastic opportunity for Dr Nigel Lyons, ACI Chief Executive, to meet and introduce himself to the consumers and NGO representatives who contribute to the ACI. Dr Lyons provided an update on the progress of the restructure, and also answered questions from attendees about the impact of the NSW Health Governance Review on the ACI and the importance of the continuing role that consumers play in shaping best practice models of care for the health system.

Forum attendees were also updated on the progress of the ACI Community Engagement Research Project (CERP) by Jo Travaglia and Pooria Sarrami Foroushani, researchers from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI), University of NSW, who are partnering ACI on this important initiative.

Bob McDonald and Denyse Bartimote, who are responsible for the development of the new ACI Strategic Plan, ran an interactive session which saw consumers have their say in the future direction of the ACI and ensure that the continuing needs of consumers are met. Consumers who weren't able to attend the forum were offered the opportunity to have their say through an online questionnaire addressing these same questions. All feedback has now been compiled into a report, which can be accessed on the ACI website at [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/165881/Consumer-Forum-Looking-to-the-future.pdf](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/165881/Consumer-Forum-Looking-to-the-future.pdf)

The ACI would like to thank the patients, carers, representatives of non government organisations and members of the ACI Consumer Council who generously gave up their time to participate in the forum.



Pictured: Jo Travaglia. Photo: M Eikli



Pictured: Forum attendees have their say in the future direction of the ACI. Photo: M Eikli

Contact: Anna Nicholes  
A/Director Engagement, Executive Support  
and Communications  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2169  
[anna.nicholes@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anna.nicholes@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

## EMERGENCY CARE INSTITUTE

### Dubbo Education and Skills Workshop, 23 August 2012

The ECI is hosting an Emergency Care Skills and Education Workshop prior to the Rural Critical Care Conference in Dubbo in August 2012. To view the provisional program and register online visit the ECI website at [www.ecinsw.com.au](http://www.ecinsw.com.au).

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The ECI website now includes a rapidly increasing number of useful clinical tools for use on the ED "shop floor". Also of great interest will be our links to the top 20 sites for emergency clinical and educational material. For more information on these new developments, visit the ECI website or click on the links below:

- Patient fact sheets
- Clinical guidelines
- Equipment guides

### Things you may have missed

The following events have recently been supported by the Emergency Care Institute. For an evaluation report and copies of the presentations visit the ECI website or click on the events below:

- ED Operational Efficiency Workshop, 29 March 2012  
*Parkroyal Hotel, Parramatta*
- ED Leaders Forum, 2 May 2012  
*Mercure Sydney Airport*

### Committee Updates

To view the latest ECI Committee one page meeting summaries visit the ECI website or click on the links below:

- Clinical Advisory Committee
- Incident Advisory Committee
- Research Advisory Committee
- Executive Committee

## WELCOME

The ECI team is delighted to welcome Matthew Murray, who has joined the ECI as Data and Information Manager. One of the exciting activities Matthew will be leading is the coordination and analysis of NSW Emergency Department incident data and RCA reports. This will be done in collaboration with the Clinical Excellence Commission and the ECI Incident Advisory Committee.

**The ECI is currently calling for research and quality project EOI's. For more information on how the ECI is supporting innovation in emergency care visit [www.ecinsw.com.au/collaborative-research-projects](http://www.ecinsw.com.au/collaborative-research-projects).**



**Emergency Care Institute**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Contact: Vanessa Evans  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2166  
[Vanessa.Evans@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Vanessa.Evans@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.ecinsw.com.au](http://www.ecinsw.com.au)

## Credentialing for the Diabetes Podiatrist Pilot



Pictured: Nancy Lee, Rebecca Donovan, Vanessa Nube and Ian Reid. Photo:

The Podiatry Credentialing document pilot being undertaken at the South Western Sydney, Hunter New England, Western Sydney and Northern NSW Local Health Districts (LHDs) was completed in May 2012. The credentialing panel met to discuss submitted applications once the pilot was completed and the findings of the pilot were presented during a breakfast session at the Australian Podiatry Association (NSW) annual conference on Podiatric Medicine on Friday, 1 June 2012. There were over 100 delegates in attendance and the presentation generated much discussion about the future of podiatry credentialing.

## NSW Model of Care for People with Diabetes Mellitus

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the ACI Endocrine Network's *NSW Model of Care for People with Diabetes Mellitus*. Feedback was received from a wide variety of sources, including Local Health Districts, professional organisations and individual clinicians.

The feedback has now been collated and presented to the working group to discuss. The next step will be to obtain an economic evaluation based on the recommendations in the document. Further updates will become available as the project progresses.

## Diabetes and Emergency Department Project

The Diabetes and Emergency Department Project continues, with most sites progressing well. Project researcher Rosemary Phillips is racking up the travel miles, visiting each of the sites to gather the necessary information and documentation. In the background, the team is preparing a review of both the time and funding implications of the project.

If you would like any further information on the project please call the Project Officer: Chris Zingle, on 0418 268 320.

Contact: Rebecca Donovan

Ph: +61 2 8644 2174

[rebecca.donovan@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.donovan@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/endocrine](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/endocrine)

## Endoscopy Information System Update

The Endoscopy Information System (EIS) implementation is well underway. Hunter New England Local Health District (LHD) implementation has been ongoing since February 2012, with more than 100 gastroenterologists, general surgeons, registrars, nursing staff, support staff and medical records staff trained to use ProVation MD. The Health

Support Services EIS project team has now handed the remaining implementation in Hunter New England over to local IT.

The HSS EIS Team is currently working with stakeholders in the Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains, South Eastern Sydney, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Northern Sydney, and Central Coast LHDs to plan their implementations. Additionally,

initial engagement meetings have also been held with the Western NSW and the Southern NSW LHDs.

Contact: Ellen Rawstron

Ph: +61 2 8644 2185

[ellen.rawstron@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ellen.rawstron@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/gastroenterology](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/gastroenterology)

## Nutrition Standards and Therapeutic Diet Specifications

You can now provide feedback on the Nutrition Standards and Therapeutic Diet Specifications using an online tool. All comments and suggestions will be automatically forwarded to the Nutrition Network Manager. An expert reference group will review all feedback on a regular basis and update the documents as required. The online feedback tool can be accessed by visiting the Nutrition Network section of the ACI website or at <http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/nutrition/nutrition-standards-feedback>

## Call for Consumers to join the HEN Network

Do you know someone who uses HEN (oral nutrition support or tube feeding at home), or cares for someone who needs HEN? The ACI HEN Network is looking for consumers to help guide, develop and implement strategies aimed at improving care and services for people in NSW who need HEN. Contact the Nutrition Network Manager for more information.

## New NSW Enteral Nutrition Support and Services contract released

The new NSW Enteral Nutrition Support and Services contract (ENSS 955) negotiated by the ACI and Health Support Services has been released.

Effective 1 July 2012, the contract is for the supply of Enteral Nutrition Support and Services for a 3 year period and can be extended for up to 2 years.

The contract includes a range of products including oral nutrition supplements, enteral nutrition formulae, thickened fluids, feeding equipment and accessories such as feeding tubes, giving sets, syringes and feeding pumps. These products will be available for purchase by a range of government agencies and public health care facilities.

People in the community who need HEN can also access products from the contract. The contract requires that the person needing HEN must be under the care of a relevant health professional working in a NSW public health care facility such as a hospital, community health centre, or services provided by Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC).

The contract and user guide have been forwarded to LHD Clinical Product Managers and Profession Directors of Nutrition and Dietetics and Speech Pathology.

Thank you to all the ACI Nutrition and Gastroenterology Network members who participated in the tender development and evaluation process.

If you would like more information about this service, please contact the Network Manager.

## FOOD AND NUTRITION BROCHURES

The Nutrition in Hospitals group would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the ACI *Food and Nutrition in NSW Hospitals* and Health Support Services Guidelines for bringing occasional food to patients brochures. All feedback has been taken in to consideration and the brochures revised as appropriate. A small number will be trialled in select hospitals shortly, with the final version released soon after.

For more information contact the Network Manager.

## KIDS ON HEN PROJECT



Pictured: Tanya Hazlewood, Natalie Wilson, Wayne Phillips, Karen Tokutake, Paul Chay.  
Photo: T Hazlewood

The Kids on HEN Project, Phase 2, is now up and running.

The project is being led by the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) with funding by the Western Child Health Network (WCHN) and support from the ACI, Kids on HEN aims to address some of the gaps identified by parents, carers and health professionals in relation to the care of children who need tube feeding at home.

Phase 1 was conducted over an 8 month period in 2010-11, where the Kids on HEN team:

- Undertook a demographic and descriptive analysis of the incidence and prevalence of children needing HEN across the WCHN (8 LHDs and Sydney Children's Hospital Network – Westmead)
- Examined current Paediatric HEN service provision across the WCHN
- Identified issues around current provision of HEN services through consultation with stakeholders, including parents, carers and health professionals.

Phase 2 of the project has been informed by the results and recommendations of Phase 1 and will see the Kids on HEN team lead the development and evaluation of a range of tools and resources to help children who need tube feeding at home.

For more information, contact Karen Tokutake, Kids on HEN Project Officer, karen.tokutake@sswhs.nsw.gov.au or Phone: +61 2 9828 5669.

Contact: Tanya Hazlewood  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2162  
tanya.hazlewood@aci.health.nsw.gov.au  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/nutrition](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/nutrition)

## GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY

Co-Chairs: Kim Hobbs and Russell Hogg

### Network Manager moving on

Following almost four years as a network manager at the ACI, Liz Prudom will be moving on to a new position at the Sydney Children's Hospital – Westmead. Liz has thoroughly enjoyed working at ACI and is delighted to have been involved with many committed and expert clinicians throughout the development and progress of projects which aim to improve patient care in the NSW Health system.

### GO CLINICAL DATA FROM THE CANCER INSTITUTE NSW

A small core group of Gynaecological Oncology (GO) clinicians will meet with a data analyst from the Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW) to begin the process of assessing what information can be drawn from the data the CINSW collects. It is anticipated that in the last quarter of 2012 a workshop will be held, where the wider

GO Network community will be invited to further discuss this data analysis.

Contact: Donald MacLellan  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2238  
donald.maclellan@aci.health.nsw.gov.au  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/gynaecological-oncology](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/gynaecological-oncology)

## INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Co-Chairs: Maria Heaton and Les White

### INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY NETWORK EXECUTIVE GROUP

The Intellectual Disability (ID) Network Executive Group, Co-Chaired by Maria Heaton and Les White, and includes the Co-Chairs of the four subcommittees and invited members from a broad range of government and non – government agencies. In the coming months, the Executive will have a particular focus on hearing from representatives from the Department of Education and Community and NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) about changes in policy and how we can work together to improve health outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities.

#### SAVE THE DATE

We are currently planning the 2012 Intellectual Disability Forum, which will be held in Sydney on Thursday, 15 November.

The day will run from 8am – 1pm and feature a keynote address from Eric Emerson, Professor of Disability Population Health at the University of Sydney. More information will become available shortly.

#### The Models of Care Sub committee

The Models of Care Subcommittee is focused on developing transition and partnership models for adolescents with ID, including both physical and mental health aspects. The Subcommittee continues to work closely with consumers and the Specialist Multidisciplinary Disability Health Services (Tier 4 Pilot Projects) which operate in various Local Health Districts to develop this model of care.

If you would like more information on the work of the subcommittees, or have an interest in contributing, please contact the Network Manager.

### SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

All four of the Intellectual Disability subcommittees have met through May/June.

The subcommittees are guided by the ID Executive Group, National Disability Strategy and Tier 4 pilot studies in establishing the focus of their activities.

Julie Thompson, Manager Client Support Policy Unit, Accommodation Policy and Development, is responsible for the draft joint protocol between NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) and NSW Health for the support of ADHC operated or funded group home clients who are admitted to a NSW public hospital. Over the past month, Julie has met with three of our subcommittees to discuss the draft. We look forward to continued input and discussions with ADHC.

Contact: Tracey Szanto  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2184  
[tracey.szanto@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tracey.szanto@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/intellectual-disability](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/intellectual-disability)

## MUSCULOSKELETAL

Co-Chairs: Lyn March and John Eisman

### MUSCULOSKELETAL NETWORK FORUM 2012

The ACI Musculoskeletal Network Forum 2012 was held on Friday, 4 May 2012 at the Kerry Packer Education Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. More than 200 delegates attended, including 50 delegates who travelled from rural and regional areas of NSW.



Pictured: Elizabeth Armstrong, Paul Mitchell, Robyn Speerin, Mary Fien and Dr Nigel Lyons. Photo: R Van Luwyn

A significant number of delegates also travelled from South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria.

Network Co-Chairs Lyn March and John Eisman co-hosted the forum, with additional support from Matt Jennings. Paul Mitchell from Synthesis Medical Limited, New Zealand provided an inspirational keynote address which left the audience keen to continue moving ahead with the implementation of the NSW Model of Care for Osteoporotic Fracture Prevention. Paul recently moved to New Zealand from the UK where he has been instrumental in the progress of the implementation of fracture prevention strategies across the National Health Service. Paul continues to support national implementation in Australia and is actively working with the Musculoskeletal Network to help achieve this.

The program included updates on all elements of the Musculoskeletal Network's current work

## MUSCULOSKELETAL (CONT'D)



Photo: R Van Luwyn



Pictured: Kathy Gibson. Photo: R Van Luwyn

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2012 FINALIST



Pictured: Pru Goward, Minister for Community Services and Women, and Lyn March, Finalist, NSW Woman of the Year Award 2012. Photo: R Speerin

Congratulations to Lyn March, Co-Chair of the Musculoskeletal Network, who was selected as one of four finalists out of more than 200 nominations for the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year 2012 Award. Lyn was nominated by Kate Needham, Executive Director of the ACI, for her outstanding effort and commitment to improving research and the quality of life for people with musculoskeletal conditions. Currently leading the International Musculoskeletal Expert Group for the Global Burden of Diseases, Lyn was recently appointed to the Executive of an international initiative to improve health outcomes for patients through rheumatology research.

Contact: Robyn Speerin  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2182  
[robyn.speerin@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robyn.speerin@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/musculoskeletal](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/musculoskeletal)

plan. The highlight of the day was the official launch of the NSW Osteoarthritis Chronic Care Program (OACCP). Dr Nigel Lyons, ACI Chief Executive, launched the program, with David Hunter providing the background of the model and its core elements.

Thank you to Danella Hackett (South Western Sydney LHD), Susan Dietsch (South Western Sydney LHD), Kathryn Buchan (Illawarra-Shoalhaven LHD) and Craig Lennox (Western NSW LHD), who gave generously of their time to present on their local experiences with implementing the OACCP. Each site reflected on their successes and challenges in very different environments.

Consumer presentations gave us all motivation to keep working on improving our service provision, with Michelle Peacock and Jenny Follett generously sharing their personal journeys with the NSW health system. Other presenters included Di Spragg (Arthritis NSW), Davinder Singh Grewal (Model of Care for the NSW Paediatric Rheumatology Network), Kathy Gibson (Development of a Graduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Nursing), Ian Harris (Evidence Review of Elective Joint Replacement Surgery), Jennie Pares, Verina Walsh and Kerry Cooper (implementing the Model of Care for Osteoporotic Refracture Prevention), Matt Jennings (the importance of multidisciplinary teams), and Jane Bleasel's team, who provided the 'grand rounds' session on refracture prevention and rheumatoid arthritis.

The Network is indebted to the Forum 2012 Working Group for making sure the day was a winner. Members include Elizabeth Armstrong (ACI and Chair of the Working Group), Trish Evans (RNSH), Bill Brennan (POW), Linda Ross (JHH), Kerry Cooper (RNC), Mary Fien (ACI), John Eisman (Garvan), Lyn March (RNSH) and Celine Hill (Westmead).

## NEW NETWORK ACTING CO-CHAIR



Pictured: Matt Jennings

Welcome to Matt Jennings, who has been appointed as the Acting Co-Chair of the Network. Matt has been highly involved in the Network since its formation in 2009, and will step in as a Co-Chair when either John or Lyn is unavailable.

## TRAINING NETWORKS

On Monday, 16 April 2012, the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) held a Radiology Training Forum.

Attendees at the forum included Department Heads and Directors of Training, who learned that the College is exploring mandatory network training to assist hospitals fulfill new curriculum requirements.

The Southern Radiology Training Network is to be congratulated on the appointment of Lorraine Fellows as Network Training Manager, part-sponsored by HETI. The appointment has produced immediate benefits with the development of a toolkit and business rules for use by future networks, HETI and RANZCR.

## NSW RADIOLOGY TRAINEE PRESENTATION COMPETITION

On Tuesday, 15 May 2012, the ACI sponsored Radiology Education Evening was held at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH).

Over the course of the night, five NSW Radiology Trainees presented research projects in order to fulfill the requirements of the new College curriculum.

Congratulations to Parveen Sidhu from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, who was announced the winner with her presentation on *Testicular FDG uptake on PET-CT in patients with lymphoma: Clinical significance and management impact*. Parveen will compete against the winners from the other states and New Zealand at the national conference. The winner of the national competition will be sponsored to attend the European Conference in 2013.



Pictured: Parveen Sidhu and Charles Lott. Photo: P Taylor

## ACI MEDICAL IMAGING CONSUMER BROCHURE

After wide consultation with imaging professionals and consumer groups, the *ACI Medical Imaging and You* brochure has been distributed to all hospitals in NSW.

The brochure provides a basic understanding of radiation, its use in medical imaging, the risks and benefits and the safety factors built into imaging procedures, and is designed to be used in imaging waiting rooms and by referrers. A copy of the brochure can be accessed at [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/consumer-resources/medical-imaging-and-you](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/consumer-resources/medical-imaging-and-you).

Contact: Annie Hutton  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2161  
[annie.hutton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annie.hutton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/radiology](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/radiology)

## RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS PROCUREMENT

A new collaboration has been formed between Health Support Services and ACI Nuclear Medicine clinicians to explore optimal processes to ensure continuity and breadth of supply of these highly specialised consumables at reasonable prices.

The first working group meeting was held on Monday, 4 June 2012 to discuss flexible and appropriate procurement options. For more information on the working group please contact the Network Manager.

Contact: Annie Hutton  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2161  
[annie.hutton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annie.hutton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/nuclear-medicine](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/nuclear-medicine)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following ACI Nuclear Medicine committee members:

- Barry Elison, Director Wollongong Nuclear Medicine and ACI NM Co-Chair has been appointed Executive Clinical Director of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
- Liz Bailey, Chief Technologist Royal North Shore Nuclear Medicine and ACI NM Co-Chair was appointed President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM)
- Paul Roach, Director Royal North Shore Nuclear Medicine has been named President of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Physicians in Nuclear Medicine (ANZAPNM)
- Clayton Frater, Chief Technologist Concord Nuclear Medicine has been appointed Clinical Associate Professor, University of Sydney School of Medicine

## 9th Annual Neurosurgical Nursing Professional Development Scholarship Committee Conference

The ACI Neurosurgery Network hosted the 9th Annual Neurosurgical Nursing Professional Development Scholarship Committee (NNPDSC) Conference at the SMC Conference and Function Centre on Friday, 1 June 2012.



Pictured: Jonathon Ball, Neurosurgery Head of Department, Royal North Shore Hospital.  
Photo: L Farthing



Pictured: Forum attendees networking at the conference.  
Photo: L Farthing

The annual conference explored international and local trends in neurosurgery, allowing attendees the opportunity to keep abreast of current knowledge and research in this highly technical and specialised area of health provision.

The day was a great success, with more than 110 delegates from across NSW, WA, Queensland, Victoria and New Zealand attending the conference to network, swap stories of local initiatives and learn more about emerging trends. Speakers included clinicians, nurses, patient representatives and a consumer presentation. Early feedback indicates that attendees rated the day highly and are already keen for next years' conference.

A big thank you to organising committee members Violeta Sutherland, Diane Lear, Jane Morison, Joanne McLaughlin, Kate Becker, Kylie Wright, Lyn Farthing and Sharryn Byers for their hard work in ensuring the success of the day.

## FUTURE WORK FOR THE NETWORK

Following the February 2012 Network meeting, the Network Co-Chairs forwarded a small questionnaire to each site to establish some common areas of need and concern. The commonly highlighted issues include:

- The ability to collect specialty specific data – some sites have managed to adapt the originally developed database; other sites have developed their own database; some sites do not have capacity to collect any data
- Theatre Access and Efficiency – affects all units for elective or emergency cases, with smaller hospitals feeling greater impact during the weekend
- Waiting Times – although there are differences between sites in world practice and case mix, waiting times from 'G.P. to being seen by a neurosurgeon' are lengthy

The questionnaire results are invaluable in assisting the Co-Chairs and Network Manager to shape possible initiatives that may help to address these common issues that impact on the delivery of Neurosurgical Services.

## INTERVENTIONAL NEURORADIOLOGY

As a result of more sophisticated techniques and equipment, and because of the greater number of stroke patients receiving thrombolysis and having clot removal, the need for Interventional Neuroradiology (INR) services is constantly increasing.

INR clinicians, radiologists and neurosurgeons, nurses and radiographers have expressed their difficulties in meeting service demands, especially afterhours. The ACI is continuing to work with LHDs and INR clinicians to address these difficulties in service provision.

## Allied Health Clinical Day

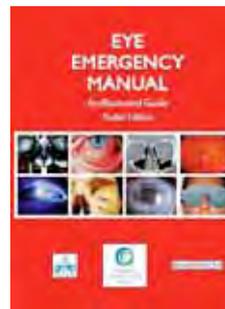
Contact: Lyn Farthing  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2163  
lyn.farthing@aci.health.nsw.gov.au  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/neurosurgery](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/neurosurgery)

On Monday, 14 May 2012 the Ophthalmology Network held its quarterly Governing Body meeting. Included in the discussions were the final draft proposals for two projects:

- the pilot study to identify and trial a vision screening pathway in the Greater Newcastle area for patients attending the Greater Newcastle Diabetes Service developed by the **Diabetic Retinopathy Working Group**
- the proposal to trial the Vision Screening Tool developed by the **Stroke and Vision Defect Working Group**

The proposals will be amended to include feedback from the meeting and will be forwarded to the ACI Executive for consideration.

A Handover Plan for the **EYECU** Project Phase 2 at Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital and the Save Sight Institute is under development to ensure sustainability of clinical, operational and administrative improvements at the completion of the implementation of the Phase 1 recommendations. It is envisaged that the project will be handed over in its entirety in late August/ early September.



Additional rural **Eye Emergency Clinician Education** workshops have been scheduled for Bathurst on Friday, 6 July and Gosford on Friday, 14 September 2012. Registration forms and a program can be found at

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/events/eye-emergency-education-workshops-2012](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/events/eye-emergency-education-workshops-2012)

Contact: Jan Steen  
Phone: +61 2 8644 2157  
[jan.steen@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jan.steen@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/ophthalmology](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/ophthalmology)

## Pain Workshop – A focus on network activity 2012-2014



Pictured: Pain Management Workshop. Photo:



Pictured: Pain Management Workshop. Photo:

On Saturday, 28 April 2012, the Pain Management Network held a workshop at the Northern Sydney Education Centre.

The aim of the workshop was to update the network members on progress since the inaugural meeting in 2010 and provided an opportunity for rigorous debate. The model of care for pain management as proposed to the

Minister for Health was discussed, as well as a number of current projects.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for those less familiar with the achievements of the Network to ask questions and contribute their experiences. Fifty clinicians attended from around the state and key additional priority areas already noted in the state plan were flagged. These areas include paediatric transition, acute to chronic transition in a post surgical or trauma

environment, clinical education and training, and the necessary integration of acute and chronic pain services in tertiary hospitals. There is also a strong commitment to standardised measurement and reporting of outcomes in an effort to understand and further develop best practice. The feedback from the event was strongly encouraging of the achievements to date and provided a focus and suggestions for future activity.

## PILOT OF A STATEWIDE REFERRAL TOOL

One area of current activity for the Network is the pilot of a statewide referral guide and form. This will provide a consistent methodology and process for GPs when accessing the eleven tertiary pain centres in NSW. The tool has been developed through statewide consultation and consensus has been achieved on referral criteria, priority ratings and reasonable wait times. Three Medicare Locals and the Local Health Districts in which the nominated pain centres are located have been approached to work in partnership with the ACI on this project. This work is the first in a series of projects aimed at building resources and capacity in the primary care sector, as well as promoting consistency of approach in the tertiary services.

Contact: Jenni Johnson  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2186  
[jenni.johnson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jenni.johnson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/pain-management](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/pain-management)

## Arterio-Venous Fistula (AVF) Haemorrhage Project

A small sub-group of the Renal Network has been working on an initiative to reduce risk of adverse events from AVF haemorrhage.

This project arose in response to several incidents which were reported in the NSW Health Incident Information Management System (IIMS) and were referred to the ACI by the Clinical Excellence Commission. To assist patients and dialysis staff manage the risk, the group has produced a package of resources including:

1. Poster for NSW Health staff and dialysis units
2. Flowchart to guide staff decision-making
3. Powerpoint presentation, for use in staff training
4. Patient information brochure; and
5. Patient Alert Card

The resources were developed collaboratively by renal clinicians at the Wollongong and Royal North Shore Hospitals, with consumer feedback incorporated. Thanks go to sub-group members Maureen Lonergan, Pauline Byrne, Geoff Youdale, Belinda Henderson and Yvonne Shen for their efforts. The resource package was released in June and is now available for trial in all NSW dialysis units and hospitals.

## Renal Network Forum planned for September 2012

The Renal Network will hold a strategic planning forum in Sydney on Monday, 10 September 2012. The Network has been pleased with the outcomes from their previous workplans and has noted that the majority of tasks have been achieved. The strategic planning forum will be opened by ACI Chief Executive, Dr Nigel Lyons, and all Renal Network members will be invited to attend. It is hoped that every renal unit in NSW Health will be represented at the forum to have their say in the future direction of the Network.

## NSW Dialysis Capacity Audit 2011

The draft report from the 2011 dialysis capacity audit was circulated to all Local Health Districts (LHDs) by the Statewide & Rural Health Services & Capital Planning Branch (SRHSCP) for comment by 31 May 2012. Thank you to everyone who reviewed and commented on the draft report. Early feedback from dialysis units has identified some errors in the reported data. The corrected data will require reanalysis leading to slightly different conclusions from those expressed in the draft report. For more information contact the Network Manager.

Contact: Fidy Westgarth

Ph: +61 2 8644 2176

[fidye.westgarth@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fidye.westgarth@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/renal](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/renal)

## WEBEX EDUCATION

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Education Series is the first ACI education event to utilize our webex based technology. Webex is an internet based system which recreates face-to-face meetings with real-time data, application, voice and video-sharing capabilities.

The acceptability and accessibility of this form of education for multidisciplinary clinicians across NSW, the majority of whom had limited or no experience with webex, was put to the test in May 2012. The overall response was extremely positive, with 134 clinicians remotely accessing the initial session, *Physiological limitations to exercise in people with chronic lung disease* presented by Jenny Alison, Associate Professor at Sydney University.

An online evaluation of the initial session showed that attendees included Clinical Nurse Consultants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physiotherapists and other Allied Health practitioners. The majority (73%) were involved in the provision of pulmonary rehabilitation services and clinical management of people with chronic lung disease, and 35% were involved in provision of education to other clinicians. Access to the webex system was reported as very easy (41%), somewhat easy (40%) and a little difficult (17%). Access to the audio

conferencing system was reported as easy or very easy by 80% and difficult by 20%.

Clinician responses for how ACI could further support their respiratory education and training needs included:

*"Continue with Webex. I do not have back fill in my position and this is an excellent way I am able to time manage my education. Thank you ACI"*

*"The session was not enough to cover the topic.... in future, it could be better to have more sessions for each topic and include question or discussion time".*

*"Continue to provide such wonderful opportunities for learning as these webex seminars".*

The Respiratory Network is now committed to gathering feedback, improving the webex experience and expanding the provision of webex based education. Plans are currently underway to continue to provide monthly respiratory webex sessions after completion of the current series in September 2012. Topics of interest for future webex education can be forwarded to the Respiratory Network Manager at [cecily.barrack@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cecily.barrack@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

Contact: Cecily Barrack

Ph: +61 2 8644 2164

[cecily.barrack@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cecily.barrack@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/respiratory](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/respiratory)

## TOBACCO TREATMENT SPECIALISTS

The Australian Association of Smoking Cessation Professionals (AASCP) was launched on Monday, 28 May 2012. The AASCP goal is to provide evidence based cessation treatment to all Australian smokers - a goal that will be realised through:

- promotion of smoking cessation practice in Australia
- improving the quality of smoking cessation advice provided by health care professionals
- informing the public of the availability of reputable smoking cessation specialists.

Members of the ACI Respiratory Network have identified limited access to smoking cessation support services for high risk patient groups, including those with respiratory disease, as a significant gap in health service provision.

Clinicians with prior education or those with an interest in smoking cessation education and training are encouraged to contact the AASCP on +61 2 9351 0816 or online at [www.aascp.org.au](http://www.aascp.org.au) to access the latest clinical and membership information.

**Project Update – Development of a Model of Care for the Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers in People with a Spinal Cord Injury**

Analysis of qualitative data from the consultation phase is close to completion and will be circulated to stakeholders for review prior to the next project Steering Committee meeting, to be held on Tuesday, 3 July. Statewide data on hospital separations for management of pressure injury in SCI will also be presented at the meeting.

For further information regarding the project contact Louise Kelly on +61 2 8644 2175 or Louise.Kelly@aci.health.nsw.gov.au.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Lucija Lavrencic, Clinical Nurse Consultant for the Spinal Plastics Service at Royal North Shore Hospital, for receiving the Dean's Award for outstanding scholarship in her Master of Nursing, Clinical Leadership at the University of Western Sydney.

**Education Opportunities**

There are some fantastic spinal cord injury education opportunities coming up, including:

- The annual *Injury to Independence* spinal cord injury short course, which will be held at the Royal North Shore Hospital on 16 – 20 July 2012.
- The *Physiotherapy Management of People with SCI* workshop will be held at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney on 27-28 July. Further information is available at [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/events?event-category=145945#spinal](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/events?event-category=145945#spinal)

**SPINAL TRANSITION (PAEDIATRIC TO ADULT) WORKING GROUP**

The Spinal Transition (Paediatric to Adult) Working Group has now met three times since the initial meeting in October 2011.

The aim of the group is to clarify and improve the transition process and overall experience for adolescents and young adults with a spinal cord injury who are moving from paediatric to adult spinal specialist services. Membership of the group includes representatives from the Sydney Hospital Network – Westmead and Randwick Campuses, ACI Transition and Spinal Cord Injury Networks, Kaleidoscope Children's Health Network, Hunter Spinal Cord Injury Service, Transition Coordinators, Adult Spinal Outreach Service, and the Paediatric Spinal Outreach Service.

Work is progressing on the development of a spinal transition kit which will include useful information, resources and contact details to help the transitioning individual negotiate their journey from paediatric to adult services.

For further information regarding the working group or if you would like to contribute to the development of the transition kit please contact Jodie Thompson, Clinical Nurse Consultant Kids Rehabilitation, Sydney Children's Hospital- Westmead, [jodie.thompson@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jodie.thompson@health.nsw.gov.au), Phone +61 22 9845 2814.

**Contact: Frances Monypenny**  
**Ph: +61 2 8644 2198**  
[frances.monypenny@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:frances.monypenny@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/spinal-cord-injury](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/spinal-cord-injury)

**SHARE UPDATE**

S.H.A.R.E. (Sharing, Hope, Acceptance, Resilience and Experience) is a peer support program supporting patients with a burn injury at Concord Repatriation General Hospital (CRGH), Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) and the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney (RRCS). This program, which was developed by the ACI Statewide Burn Injury Service Network, links patients with a burn injury admitted to hospital with a burn injury survivor for face to face, one on one social contact and support.

Since the program commenced in late March 2012, eight burns patients have been peer matched with a volunteer. Feedback captured by the patients both formally and informally indicates that as a result of participating in S.H.A.R.E, the patients have seen positive changes in their self esteem and motivation, as well as feelings of hope.

An appreciation morning tea was held on Saturday, 26 May 2012 at Royal North Shore Hospital to thank the volunteers for their patience and enthusiasm as the program gains momentum. The morning tea also acknowledged the contributions



Pictured: (front l-r): Trish Gabor (volunteer), Scott Stubbs (volunteer), Frank Spiteri (volunteer), Gemma Blok (social worker, RRCS) (Back l-r): Yvonne Hirst (carer), Tim Hirst (volunteer), Andrew Barber (volunteer), Hayley Watson (volunteer), Anne Darton (Network Manager, ACI), Chris Parker (NUM, CRGH), Akane Katsu (OT, RNSH), Julia Kwiet (social worker, RNSH), Kathy Leader (social worker, RNSH) and Janelle Tolley (Project Officer, ACI). Photo: J Tolley.

of the steering committee members who, over the past twelve months, have provided valuable input into the direction of the program. The steering committee has now come to an end, with the committee's primary purpose of supporting the development of the program complete.

Individuals interested in volunteering with

S.H.A.R.E. need to have had direct experience in recovering from a burn injury, be available for a minimum of two hours a month and participate in the recruitment and training program. For more information on becoming a SHARE volunteer, please contact Janelle Tolley, ACI Burn Injury Network Peer Support Officer, on +61 2 8644 2156 or [janelle.tolley@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janelle.tolley@aci.health.nsw.gov.au).

## BURN REHABILITATION

Patients with severe burn injuries from the adult burn units at Concord and Royal North Shore Hospitals are currently referred to the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney (RRCS) for inpatient rehabilitation.

In 2013, the RRCS unit that provides the burn inpatient rehabilitation will be moving to the new Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre (GRC) at Ryde Hospital.

This new centre will offer Level 5 Rehabilitation Services to North Shore Ryde Health Service referring hospitals. Referrals will be taken from the Royal North Shore Hospital Severe Burn Unit; however there are currently no arrangements in place for referrals from the Concord Hospital Statewide Burn Injury Unit.

Future options for inpatient rehabilitation for severely burn injured patients who receive their acute care at the Concord Hospital Statewide Burn Injury Unit are being explored by the Statewide Burn Injury Service committee. Further information will be circulated once available.

## BURN CARE EDUCATION

The ACI Statewide Burn Injury Service Network held a Recent Burn Care Education Day in the Blue Mountains on Wednesday, 9 May 2012. More than 22 people from the Nepean, Katoomba, Lithgow, and Hawkesbury areas attended, with delegates including nursing, Ambulance Service of NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW staff.

The education day covered background pathophysiology, epidemiology, early treatment, wound management, transfer/referral guidelines and an overview of multidisciplinary team care for burn injured patients.

The Statewide Burn Injury Service Network is happy to provide burn education by request. If you are interested please contact Siobhan Connolly at [siobhan.connolly@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:siobhan.connolly@aci.health.nsw.gov.au).

Contact: Anne Darton  
Ph: +61 2 8644 5641  
[anne.darton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anne.darton@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/burn-injury](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/burn-injury)

Clinical Network Report

## TRANSITION CARE

Co-Chairs: Susan Towns and Kylie Polglase

### How are young people referred to the Transition Network Coordinators?

Anyone can refer to the service – young people, parents, clinicians and other relevant professionals.

A referral form can be accessed online at [www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/transition](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/transition) or by phoning the Network Manager. Once submitted, a Transition Coordinator will contact the young person and transition information and support will be provided as required. Feedback is also provided to referring clinicians.

## YOUTH WEEK 2012

To commemorate Youth Week 2012, Patricia Kasengele, Western Area Transition Coordinator, held a stall at Westmead Hospital on Wednesday, 18 April 2012.

The stall provided information about the Transition Network and services offered. A transition poster was also displayed on a poster board at the Sydney Children's Hospital Network – Westmead Campus. Displays were also held at John Hunter Children's Hospital and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.



Pictured: Patricia Kasengele at Westmead Hospital youth week display. Photo: P Kasengele



Pictured: Transition Care Coordinator Lif O'Connor with transition patient Gordan Fung at the RPAH Youth Week stand. Photo: M Sutton



Pictured: Jenny Lavoipierre. Photo: P Kasengele

## BATHURST FORUM

On Sunday, 20 May 2012, Patricia Kasengele presented at a forum on Transition Care and Liaison between Hospital, School and Home, held at All Saint's College, Bathurst. The forum was organised by Jenny Lavoipierre, Coordinator of the Independent Learning Centre, All Saints' College and 2011 recipient of the NSW Premier's Teachers Rural and Remote Education Scholarship. Jenny is also the parent of a childhood cancer survivor. The forum was aimed at parents, carers and health professionals, providing information on the educational impacts for students dealing with serious medical conditions.

Topics covered included:

- Chronic Health Issues in Young People (Improved outcomes through improved collaboration between Health & Education providers)
- Practical insights into the social/emotional issues of living with illness.
- The educational implications of some common, serious medical conditions.
- Practical strategies for schools and parents to support the learning of students with medical conditions.
- Transition Care and Liaison between hospital, school and home.

## NORTHERN NEWS



Pictured: School Leaver Charmaine Carter and Teachers Aid Lyn Elks at Taree School Leavers Disability Expo in May. Photo: A. Myles

Angie Myles, Transition Care Coordinator, visited a range of services as part of a recent road trip around northern NSW to promote ACI Transition Network services.

Site visits included Ballina, Lismore, Tweed Heads and Coffs Harbour, with transition stalls held at three school leaver's disability expos. Angie also met with paediatric clinicians from Tweed Heads Hospital, Coffs Harbour Hospital, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Alstonville and the Northcott Disability Service to discuss the Network.

Transition stalls were also held at disability school leaver's expos in Taree and Port Macquarie during May.

## SOUTH EASTERN NEWS

Farewell, best wishes and a big thank you to Lif O'Connor, who has 'transitioned' from her six year role as Transition Care Coordinator to a challenging new position with the Metro Regional Intellectual Disability Pilot at St George Hospital. Lif has taken on the role of Clinical Nurse Consultant for the Tier 4 Intellectual Disability Service, which is focused on improving the health outcomes for people with intellectual disability living in South Eastern Local Health District, the Illawarra and beyond. Youths aged 16-24 years are the focus of the service, which will allow Lif to continue her involvement with the established Transition Clinics in Schools for Specific Purposes.

Contact: Lynne Brodie  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2187  
lynne.brodie@aci.health.nsw.gov.au  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/transition-care](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/transition-care)

## UROLOGY

Co-Chairs: Janette Williams and Andrew Brooks

### Evaluation of the Prostate Cancer Clinical Nurse Coordinator

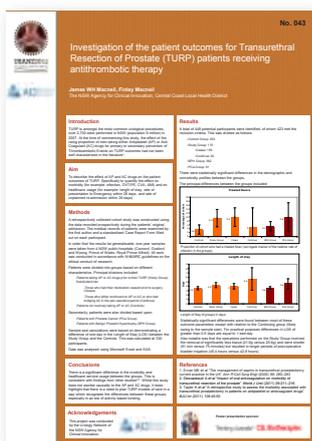
Phase 1 of the study *Evaluation of the Prostate Cancer Clinical Nurse (PCN) Coordinator* commenced in March 2012.

The study recruits patients with prostate cancer who receive clinic services at Westmead Private Hospital. It is estimated that Phase 1 recruitment will take approximately five months, with the intent to recruit 100 patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer. It is expected that Phase 2 of the study will commence in September or October 2012 and will be in operation for twelve months.

### NETWORK MANAGER MOVING ON

Following almost four years as a network manager at the ACI, Liz Prudom, will be moving on to a new position at the Sydney Children's Hospital- Westmead. Liz has thoroughly enjoyed working at ACI and is delighted to have been involved with many committed and expert clinicians throughout the development and progress of projects which aim to improve to patient care in the NSW Health system.

### Study into adverse events of patients having TURP surgery who are receiving anti-thrombotics



The following poster was accepted for presentation at the annual Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand Conference in April 2012.

It is anticipated that the results detailed in the poster will help formulate evidence for a future business case that will highlight the advantages of laser surgery in some cases of benign prostatic hypertrophy.

Contact: Donald MacLellan  
Ph: +61 2 8644 2238  
donald.maclellan@aci.health.nsw.gov.au  
[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/urology](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/urology)

## Save the Date! NSW Rural Health and Research Congress

In previous years CETI Rural Directorate has conducted three conferences: the Rural and Remote Health Conference, The NSW Rural Allied Health Conference and the Rural Health Research Colloquium, each a biannual event. In order to highlight and promote the multidisciplinary focus of rural health, as well as injecting more clinical based rural research into the conference program, these three conferences will this year be combined for the first time to become an annual *Rural Health and Research Congress*.

**When?** Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 November 2012

**Where?** Wagga Wagga RSL

**Who should attend?** Clinicians from the multidisciplinary team we call rural health, including allied health, nursing, medical, clinician researchers, academic partners in health, metropolitan colleagues with a rural directorate, health service managers, health workers from the private sector, aboriginal health workers and allied health assistants.

Abstracts are now open, and close on Saturday, 30 June 2012. To submit an abstract visit the conference website at [www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/Conferences/rural\\_health](http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/Conferences/rural_health)

A pre-conference workshop is currently being developed, to be held on the morning of Monday, 7 November 2012, with the Congress officially opened by the Hon. Melinda Pavey MC at 1pm. The draft program will be available soon.

For more information contact Jenny Preece ph +61 2 6692 7716, email [Jenny.Preece@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jenny.Preece@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au) or visit the conference website [www.ruralceti.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ruralceti.health.nsw.gov.au).

## NSW RURAL STROKE NETWORK E-LEARNING PACKAGE



Stroke Care Coordinators Melissa Gill (Armidale), Rachel Peake (Tamworth), Kim Parrey (Port Macquarie) and colleagues have completed The NSW Rural Stroke Network e-Learning Package.

The package has been handed over to the National Stroke Foundation for review and will be launched later this year. This project was supported by a scholarship from the former NSW Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching and promises to be a valuable education tool, particularly for nursing and allied health professionals working in rural areas.

More than 150 participants are expected to attend the Rural Update in Stroke Heart and Diabetes Conference (RUSH) 3, to be held in Port Macquarie on Thursday 22 November 2012. The RUSH Conference program will bring together rural and metropolitan specialists in neurology, cardiology, and general stroke management to deliver practical applications of evidence based management. Enquiries can be directed to [Kim.Parrey@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kim.Parrey@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au).

## FOCUS ON INNOVATION

The Cancer Institute NSW will launch its inaugural Innovation in Cancer Treatment and Care NSW Conference on Friday, 7 September 2012 at the Australian Technology Park.

The event, which aims to provide a unique educational environment to NSW health professionals, will showcase novel ideas and strategies within cancer services. Clinical Innovation will be one focus of the all-day conference, along with areas of primary health care and disadvantaged communities.

International guest speaker Amy Abernethy, Associate Director of Duke Comprehensive Cancer Centre will open the event with a keynote address on Rapid Learning Cancer Systems. There will be no shortage of discussions with concurrent sessions and informative presentations being held throughout the day.

Fostering innovation is at the heart of this event and it is in this spirit that the Cancer

Institute NSW is inviting health professionals to submit abstracts and share their own Innovative projects. Successful abstracts will feature in the conference programme in either an oral presentation or poster format. Prizes will be offered for Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster, as well as Runner-Up awards.

Guests can register for free and for those who are unable to attend the conference sessions will be available for viewing online via a webcast.



## NSW Central Cancer Registry Celebrates 40 years

The NSW Central Cancer Registry recently celebrated 40 years of operation with a stakeholder event that recognised the dedication of current and former Registry team members.

The event also marked the launch of the NSW Cancer Registries, which will amalgamate data from the Clinical Cancer Registries and the NSW Central Cancer Registry to support an integrated approach to the collection, retrieval and linkage of high quality, comparable data, aligned with priority stakeholder needs, in a secure, controlled and lawful manner.

**Contact** [events@cancerinstitute.org.au](mailto:events@cancerinstitute.org.au)

You can learn more about the Innovations in Cancer Treatment and Care in NSW Conference at [www.cancerinstitute.org.au](http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au)

**Melissa Devine**

Media and Communications Advisor

Ph: (02) 8374 5600

[melissa.devine@cancerinstitute.org.au](mailto:melissa.devine@cancerinstitute.org.au)

# NEW REPORTS FROM THE BUREAU OF HEALTH INFORMATION



The Bureau of Health Information has published two reports that give new insights into hospital performance in NSW.

*Chronic Disease Care, another piece of the picture* analysed the hospitalisation records of 71,700 adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or congestive heart failure (CHF) in the year 2009-10. These patients were admitted to hospital 100,000 times for many different reasons.

The report shows that adults with COPD or CHF spent more than half a million days in a NSW hospital bed, representing 8% of the total number of hospital bed days in 2009-10.

"Many adults with chronic lung or heart conditions have other health conditions that are driving their use of hospitals," Acting Bureau Chief Executive Kim Browne said.

Hospital usage specifically for COPD and CHF was concentrated in a very small proportion of

people with COPD or CHF. The report found that 4% of adults with COPD accounted for nearly two thirds of bed days used primarily to treat this condition. For CHF, 2% of adults accounted for almost half of the bed days used.

Of all the hospitalisations for these conditions (primary diagnosis), the rate of unplanned readmission within one month of discharge was 13% for COPD and 9% for CHF. Unplanned readmission rates vary across public hospitals. Hospitals with the highest rates were about three times as high as hospitals with the lowest rates.

The Bureau also published the latest issue of *Hospital Quarterly* which shows NSW emergency department patients are generally waiting less time for care to begin than a year ago.

"From January to March 2012 we saw an increase in patients at emergency departments but the time they waited for treatment to start was shorter or the same as a year ago," Kim Browne said.

Across NSW, the median time that patients left the emergency department was three hours and 19 minutes after presentation. At the 95th percentile,

the time was 11 hours and 55 minutes, 41 minutes less than the same quarter last year.

"These performance improvements come as NSW public hospitals continue to face increased demand with more patients attending emergency departments, being admitted to hospital and undergoing elective surgery," Ms Browne said.

The Bureau now reports on a new measure to show how emergency departments in NSW perform against the National Emergency Access Target. The target for NSW in 2012 is for 69% of all patients to leave emergency departments within four hours. In January to March this year, 59% of patients left NSW emergency departments within four hours.

*Hospital Quarterly* and *Chronic Disease Care, another piece of the picture* are available on the Bureau's website at [www.bhi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au)

**Karen Perini**  
Senior Communications Officer  
Ph: (02) 8644 2113  
[karen.perini@bhi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:karen.perini@bhi.nsw.gov.au)

# Network

21-23 NOVEMBER 2012

SYDNEY CONVENTION  
AND EXHIBITION CENTRE  
DARLING HARBOUR

to NETWORK

SYDNEY 2012

The Australasian  
Clinical Networks  
Conference

<http://www.hssevents.health.nsw.gov.au/n2n>

## CONTACT US/ FEEDBACK



**ACI** NSW Agency  
for Clinical  
Innovation

We appreciate hearing from you - please contact:

### Newsletter

Anna Nicholes

ph: +61 2 8644 2169

[anna.nicholes@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anna.nicholes@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

The ACI Newsletter *Clinician Connect* is available at:

[www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers of *Clinician Connect* are invited to submit letters for publication. These can relate to topics of current clinical interest or items published in the ACI newsletter. All Letters to the Editor must have a name, address and telephone number to be used for verification purposes only. The submitter's name, title and organisation will be used in print. No anonymous letters will be printed. The ACI reserves the right to edit all letters and to reject any and all letters.

Letters should be addressed to:

**Dr Nigel Lyons, Chief Executive, ACI**

**Postal address:**

ACI, PO Box 699 Chatswood NSW 2057

[nigel.lyons@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nigel.lyons@aci.health.nsw.gov.au)