



GENERAL PRACTICE

tasmania

MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERS

february 2008

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Program Officer Aged Care

Angie Patras

Regional Health Information Management Officer

Richard Wylie

Development & Liaison Officer Mental Health

Kate Brennan

Office Manager

Natalie Reason

Administration Assistant

Sally Ride

[LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER...]

ADMINISTRATION

Work continued supporting the company's accreditation process with significant progress made in a range of resources, policies and procedures and the organisation of an off-site staff workshop.

The company Employment Manual was finalised and adopted. The aim of the manual is to provide a comprehensive information resource for all new and existing employees of the organisation. It is the responsibility of the Office Manager to maintain the manual on an ongoing basis.

Contact: Natalie Reason

ADVOCACY

A meeting of the General Practice Network Leadership Group (GPNLG) was held on 14-15 February with the main topics for discussion being the new Federal Government priorities, draft guidelines for GP Super Clinics, the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives Program, future directions for the Practice Nursing Program and the DoHA approach to Division and SBO performance management.

Divisions were consulted prior to the meeting and a several issues were listed on the agenda on their behalf. A copy of the formal meeting Communiqué has been circulated and feedback has also been shared among the C/EOs group.

GPT also made a number of representations on behalf of the network to the State in relation to planning around Super Clinics and Integrated Care Centres.

Contact: Sarah Male

AGED CARE

A meeting was held with the Tasmanian Aged Care Network and ACST to strengthen communication and working relationships.

Meetings were also held with the Aboriginal Relationship Centred Care Project Officer from ACST who is investigating/promoting models of care within Residential Aged Care Facilities which incorporate the needs of indigenous people.

An initial meeting with the Chief Nursing Officer from DHHS was held regarding the nurse practitioner role within Tasmania as well as initial discussions around the potential for nurse practitioners in aged care.

The SBO collaborated with Divisional Aged Care Program Officers to develop a presentation that was delivered at the GPV Aged Care Forum. The presentation provided an overview of the Tasmanian Aged Care Network, panel models which operate within each Division, and program achievements and constraints to date.

Since mid February the Aged Care Program Officer has been working on a full-time basis. Program funding for Aged Care is currently due to cease in June 2008.

Contact: Ange Patras

AUSTRALIAN BETTER HEALTH INITIATIVE (ABHI)

GPT participated in two meetings of the ABHI/State Health Plan working group under the auspice of the MoU Monitoring Group.

Discussions have been held with key DHHS personnel to raise issues of concern in relation to the tendering of the northern demonstration site given that implementation of this project is a key deliverable for GPT under the ABHI Contract with DoHA.

This matter has been included in the GPT risk register and is being closely managed. If not resolved in March discussions will be held with DoHA regarding the contract compliance issue.

David Gardiner will be attending the national ABHI workshop in Sydney on Friday 14 March.

Contact: Sarah Male / David Gardiner

AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY CARE COLLABORATIVES PROGRAM (APCC)

Liaison between the Improvement Foundation (IF) and all SBOs is to occur via a workshop scheduled for Saturday 15 March in Sydney. The purpose of the workshop is to endeavour to achieve better national coordination of the program and to clarify the Improvement Foundation's plans. SBOs will then be in a position to fully brief Divisions and to mitigate the risk of fragmented or inconsistent approaches.

Contact: Sarah Male

GENERAL PRACTICE IMMUNISATION INCENTIVES SCHEME (GPII)

The face-to-face Immunisation Program Officers meeting was held on 27 February 2008. Representatives from DHHS Public Health and Medicare Australia attended for part of the meeting. Topics discussed included nurse immuniser reauthorisation, changes to the schedule, funding for adolescent vaccines, uptake of Gardasil and delays in delivery of fluvax.

Program Officers also attended a public lecture held by Dr Ian Frazer on the latest developments in cancer immunisation and screening.

The SIRG meeting was also attended by GPT, GPN and GPNW on 27 February.

From mid-March, the GPT Immunisation Program Officer (Tessa Saunders) will be working one day per week at GPS whilst Judy Broad is on leave.

Contact: Tessa Saunders

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND EHEALTH (IMEH)

The Project Plan for Tasmania which is the first contract deliverable for the Divisions Network eHealth Project (DNeHP) has now been delivered to DoHA and a copy provided to AGPN. Following DoHA endorsement and post the GPT accreditation review, work will commence in earnest on the project.

The first area of activity will be the provision of support to General Practice South and General Practice North West to implement the IMMF (General Practice North has already completed this exercise). It is planned that all organisations within the GPT network will have completed the initial checklist and “gap analysis” by the end of April, and that the action tasks identified by each organisation can then be included in their respective business plans.

February has been a milestone month for the SECCI project with the “soft” launch taking place on 20 February. Global Health has agreed to rollback the billing cycle to the 20 February for those GPs and specialists already in the system. This means that the six-month free period will commence from 20 February.

February has seen continued progress with the installation and training of providers around the State. There are over 80 GPs and specialists live in the system now and genuine referrals are now taking place. The SECCI team has developed a central support website where participants can download the training material and see who is “on-line”. This is available at <http://www.gptasmania.net.au/secci/>

A major new release of the ReferralNet client is due in the next two weeks which will bring additional technical enhancements.

GPT is working with HealthConnect Tasmania to plan an “official” launch for SECCI which is currently anticipated to occur in late April or early May.

Work is continuing on developing a project proposal with the DHHS in relation the development of a statewide provider directory system. Negotiations are currently in progress with SADI and Global Health to scope and cost the interoperability requirements between the Provider Directory and the SECCI ReferralNet messaging system. The draft proposal is scheduled for completion during March.

Work has now commenced on the 2008 Census process which will be the first time that this has been conducted using the new AGPN National GPCensus tool. The target date is for the 5 May as the commencement of “Census Week” and it is planned that the data collation process will commence on 12 May.

A contractor from the University of Tasmania has been commissioned to undertake a short project over the next two months to develop a standard data report and analysis for the four members of the network to support their needs assessment and service planning. Divisions and General Practice Workforce will be consulted on their needs and priorities throughout this project. The standard report will be produced on a quarterly basis and will provide a useful tool for the development of new strategic plans as well as reporting to funding bodies against key performance indicators

Contact: Richard Wylie

MENTAL HEALTH

The Primary Mental Health Liaison Officer (PMHDLO) and Jane Westley from AGPN (Mental Health) met with Divisional Program Officers from both the NorthWest and the North on 1 February. Jane presented an overview and orientation of the role DoHA, AGPN, the PMHDLO and the Divisions play in the implementation of programs and education of GPs in the Mental Health area.

The 6-month progress report against key performance indicators to DoHA was submitted on 18 February.

The PMHDLO participated in the National Primary Mental Health DLO teleconference on 6 February and attended the first face-to-face National Primary Mental Health DLO meeting in Canberra on 25 and 26 February.

The first Tasmanian Division face-to-face meeting was held with the PMHDLO and the PO in a breakfast meeting in Melbourne on 29 February. Following this meeting the PMHDLO and the three Divisional MH Program Officers attended the GPV Mental Health Forum held in Melbourne later that same day.

The PMHDLO has continued to work from DHHS Mental Health Services one-day per week.

Contact: Kate Brennan

MEDIA

There were no media releases issued during February.

A media training package for EOs and Board Directors is being developed with Corporate Communications Ltd and is to be rolled out to the network during April.

Contact: Sarah Male

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEW (MMR)

A National SBO – QUM meeting was held in Adelaide on 14-15 February. Topics covered included:

- Discussion of goal setting between SBO HMR and Pharmacy Guild HMR Officer through Guild initiated State-wide HMR committees.
- DVA – Dose Administration Aids program and its HMR requirement as part of the process, and the potential impact on the HMR provider workforce, both GPs and Pharmacists. DVA will continue to liaise through SBO-QUM network before releasing information to GPs around this new DVA subsidised service for veterans

- Presentation from Professor Andy Gilbert on impacts of DVA Mates on QUM objectives, and acceptance by GPs of program.

The SBO program officer prepared a submission to the DoHA review of the HMR program due on 18 February. The review called for submissions to address issues that would value-add the HMR program. The submission concentrated on ways the HMR process could be improved leading to increased acceptance and use of the service by GPs, Pharmacists and consumers.

Contact: Anne Todd / David Gardiner

NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE (NIGP)

During February the Graduate Certificate of Practice Nursing recommenced for 2008 with eleven nurses continuing onto module three and five new enrollees commencing module one. GPT has collaborated with GPV for the provision of academic tutor support within Tasmania. To commence the semester two workshops were held for students on 28 and 29 February.

A number of educational events occurred during February, including 30 practice nurses participating in an ear syringing credentialing workshops on 6-7 February and a mental health up-skilling workshop on 1 February.

Upcoming training and development activities include a second mental health up-skilling workshop which will be held during March and the domestic violence training that was planned for February (to be provided by Lifeline) has been rescheduled for April. Arrangements are also continuing for a health-coaching clinic in April in Launceston with twenty practice nurse places.

The SBO NiGP Program Officer participated in a National SBO meeting convened by AGPN in Canberra on 19, 20 and 21 February. The emphasis of this meeting was the development of a 4-year strategic plan for the program from 2008-12. The plan is currently being refined by AGPN prior to submission to the DoHA. Program funding is currently due to cease in June 2008.

During the national meeting the SBO program officers also met with representatives of the Royal Australian College of Nursing to consider the development national guidelines for the placement of student nurses in general practice.

Contact: Lynette Purton / David Gardiner

POLICY

Areas of policy discussion during the period focussed on the various aspects of the implementation of the State Health Plan and early planning around GP Super Clinics.

Matters prepared for submission to the SGPPG included "Scripts Owing", systems for monitoring opiate/narcotic prescribing and the ToR and membership of the SGPPG including potential participation by other GP Groups.

Contact: David Gardiner/Sarah Male

DIARY DATES

March

- 3-7** GPT External Accreditation
- 10** Eight Hours Day Public Holiday
- 14** ABHI National Workshop, Sydney
- 14** SGPPG, Hobart
- 14** GPACK, Hobart
- 14** CEO and Chair meeting with DHHS Secretary,
- 19** Executive Officers Meeting, Melbourne
- 21** Good Friday Public Holiday
- 24** Easter Monday Public Holiday
- 25** Easter Tuesday Public Holiday
- 27** AGPN Super Clinics Workshop, Melbourne
- 28** GPT Board and Strategic Planning Meeting, Launceston

April

- 11** DHHS/GP MoU Planning Group, Teleconference
- 24** GPNLG, Teleconference
- 25** ANZAC Day Public Holiday

May

- 6** SGPPG, Teleconference
- 8** Executive Officers Meeting, Launceston
- 23** DHHS/GP MoU Planning Group, Teleconference