



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN ACTION Issue 15 July 2009

Support for Smoking Cessation



The ABC of smoking cessation has come to Tasmania.

The Alcohol & Drug Service's new Smoking Cessation Service is now up and running. The Service aims to provide education and support to health professionals on conducting the ABC of Smoking Cessation - a new brief intervention framework for helping smokers quit.

Smokers are more likely to make changes to their behaviour based on advice from a trusted health professional.

The ABC of Smoking Cessation training will be delivered by three Regional Cessation Coordinators based at the Royal Hobart, Launceston General and North West Regional Hospitals. Training commenced at the Royal Hobart Hospital in June 2009 and will soon begin at the North West Regional Hospital once our newly recruited Regional Cessation Coordinator for the North West has commenced.

Recruitment to the Northern Regional Cessation Coordinator position is currently ongoing and training will commence at the Launceston General Hospital once the position has been filled.

There are several priority groups within the community including: clients with mental health illness, co-morbid illness, pregnant women and new parents and Tasmanian Aborigines. Organisations and services working with priority groups in each region will be the primary focus of the ABC of Smoking Cessation education and professional support. [THP](#)

TasCarepoint(ing) the way



Team members, pictured at the new Tasmanian Customer Service Centre in Hobart.

The Tasmanian Access Point Demonstration Project aims to provide easily recognisable point at which people can obtain community care information, have eligibility screened and needs identified, and receive guided referral to the most appropriate service, or to further assessment if required.

One, easy to identify, point of contact allows simplified access to information about community care and support.

The Access Point will demonstrate a single point of access for information on the full range of community care services, however will initially be limited to screening, intake and referral to Home and Community Care (HACC) Services in the southern region of Tasmania.

Operations from the Tasmanian based office commenced in March 2009, with a blended workforce of health professionals and customer service officers. Preliminary analysis of the first two months of operational data shows that there were 824 calls/faxes, representing 792 unique clients. 92 different service providers contacted the access point.

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The scope of services covered by the Access Point will be implemented in stages and currently is processing referrals for community nursing, personal care, domestic assistance, home maintenance and the Home Independence Program. Team Leader Angela Doyle has been gradually making contact with service providers around the state, with the aim of expansion across the southern region of Tasmania and eventually the rest of the state. [THP](#)

The New Rural Doctors Partnership



The Department of Health and Human Services has recently finalised a package of measures to support rural doctors in Tasmania.

The new Partnership includes:

- the establishment of a Rural Doctors Consultative Committee
- a new Rural Medical Practitioners (Public Sector) Agreement; and
- a recruitment, retention and rural general practice support strategy.

Without this kind of Partnership we cannot attract or retain our rural medical workforce.

A Rural Doctors Consultative Committee is being established to provide ongoing advice about the implementation of the Agreement and to work with the DHHS in development of a policy on a consistent approach to non financial support arrangements. The Agreement has been developed conjointly between the Department and a negotiating group of rural doctors with the assistance of the Australian Medical Association. The new Agreement represents significant increases in remuneration for rural doctors who provide services on behalf of the DHHS. Increases in remuneration and other forms of support are necessary to keep Tasmania competitive in the national GP recruitment market.

As a result of this Agreement an additional \$2.5 million per annum has been allocated to support rural

medical practice in Tasmania. This brings the Tasmanian Government's total expenditure to approximately \$4.6 million.

Agreement provisions include retention of obstetrics, anaesthetic, surgical, kilometrage and pharmacy allowances, leave entitlements and salary sacrifice and packaging arrangements.

Other key features of the Agreement include:

- Increases to Rural GP's hourly rate;
- Increases to call back payments;
- Payment of an annual availability fee;
- Payments equivalent to one hour per week for participation by rural doctors in quality and safety improvement activities; and
- Payment of up to 4 hours per fortnight for participation in health promotion and chronic disease prevention activities. [THP](#)

Rural Hospitals – Planning for Sustainability



Tasmania's rural hospital web sites are getting a facelift.

The upgrade is part of a sustainability project to improve the utilisation of rural in-patient facilities and to promote the 'boutique' country hospital experience.

Better use of rural hospitals can play an important role in relieving 'bottlenecks' at the metropolitan hospitals.

The rural hospital 'intranet' website will have an interactive map, information about each site, and a checklist for doctors at LGH, NWRH and RHH to use to facilitate patient transfers.

Public 'internet' pages for each site are also being planned. [THP](#)

Tasmania's Health Plan

To find out more:

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