



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN ACTION

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Community nurses in Hobart were very keen to see the Nursing Assessment Tool.

Community nurses get powerful new tool

An impressive community Nursing Assessment Tool was launched in February to a group of 40 enthusiastic nurses in Hobart.

Launching the nursing tool, Primary Health CEO Pip Leedham said it enabled the continued development of high quality and safe primary health services.

Ms Leedham said the development and implementation of the Nursing Assessment Tool was part of the strengthening primary health strategies in Tasmania's Health Plan.

Consistent Community Care project manager Fay Walsh, who led the tool's development team, said it ticked all the right boxes.

"This tool is holistic, clinically sound, logical, standardised, screens for risks, identifies client health issues and triggers referral," Ms Walsh said.

"It collects all necessary information to inform the development of goal-orientated care plans based on the person's goals and expectations of the service.

"The nursing tool tells us how this person is today and identifies client health issues, and screens for risks related to functional decline," she said.

"The second part of the assessment process provides a focused assessment in areas where client health issues are identified.

New assessment tool will particularly help monitor people with chronic disease, 60% of who have up to five chronic conditions.

"It will help us identify the resources that may impact on a person's ability to remain living independently in the community."

The launch was told that the tool was particularly useful for monitoring people with chronic disease, 60 per cent of who have up to five chronic conditions, and would help target health promotion and illness prevention programs.

Nurses were told the tool would engage their clients and provide evidence-based data that over time would provide a picture of a client's changing health status.

"The next step is conducting education sessions in each region to present in-depth information on how to use the tool," Ms Walsh said.

Launches also took place in the north and north-west later in February.

For further information contact Fay Walsh on 6222 6619 or email fay.walsh@dhhs.tas.gov.au THP

March of THP community forums

The next round of community forums will take place around the state in mid March.

Biannual community forums are held in each region to showcase progress in implementing Tasmania's Health Plan and to hear feedback and advice.

Participants include health providers, consumers and other key stakeholders such as local government representatives.

All forums will feature a short presentation from DHHS Secretary David Roberts. THP

Tasmania's Health Plan

To find out more:

visit www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/thp

email future.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au

call 6233 3964

TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Aged care-rehab gets networking



Back: (L) Sue Leake, David Dunbabin, Keith McArthur, Antony Speed, Darren Mathewson and John MacKean.
Front: Richard Winspear, Suzanne Gilham, Wendy Quinn, Lee Wallace, Christine Priest and Nadia Mahjouri.

The Aged Care and Rehabilitation Clinical Network Steering Committee held its inaugural meeting in Campbell Town on February 17.

The committee quickly set to work developing several proposals for possible network projects submitted by clinicians across the state to improve health service delivery across Tasmania in Aged Care and Rehabilitation.

Chaired by network clinical leads Dr David Dunbabin and Ms Lee Wallace, the steering committee has 14 members drawn from many backgrounds, locations and experiences in aged care and rehabilitation.

The committee includes industry, peak body, carer and federal health and ageing representatives. Members are appointed for 12 months.

Other members of the broader network will play a crucial role planning and developing the network. [THP](#)

Clarence centre of attention

Forward Brianese & Partners have won the design contract for the Clarence Integrated Care Centre/GP Super Clinic and will produce a first phase schematic design by April 2009.

A project user group will provide the architects with service delivery input; the group held its first meeting in late February. The user group will continue to meet with the architects to discuss their specific needs in detail.

Meanwhile, John Ramsay & Associates continue work on the Clarence ICC/GP Super Clinic governance model. John Ramsay has consulted a wide range of stakeholders and will release a report with governance recommendations shortly.

In other news, the Australian Government will provide \$5.5 million to fund the Clarence GP Super Clinic. Its original offer of \$5 million was increased by \$500,000, which takes the total project cost to \$18.5 million.

For further information contact Clarence ICC/GP Super Clinic project manager Sally Williams on 6233 4937. [THP](#)

THP representative ranks swell

Twenty-two new Tasmania's Health Plan consumer representatives were inducted at meetings in the north, north-west and south in February.

There are now 20 Health Plan consumer representatives in the south, 15 in the north and 16 in the north-west.

Consumer representative feedback their advice and opinions about Health Plan progress, and promote and support the Plan among their peers.

They attend a minimum of two community forums a year where DHHS managers provide information on project progress under Tasmania's Health Plan.

Expressions of interest for more consumer representatives in the north and north-west are welcome.

In the south, participants heard about the new consumer engagement strategy for the Department of Health and Human Services.

In the north-west, the North West Regional Hospital assistant director of nursing-midwifery Francine Douce and Mersey obstetrics and gynaecology staff specialist Dr Michael Saunders delivered an update on the Maternity Service Review.

The review is asking consumers what they want from their service.

The review team also welcomes advice on how to best engage the broader consumer network to get their opinions. Contact Francine Douce on 6430 6666 or email francine.douce@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Contact Dr Michael Saunders on 6426 5111 or email michael.saunders@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Expressions of interest for consumer representatives in the north and north-west are welcome.

For more information contact project consultant Debbie Schofield-Gavin on 6233 0416 or email deborah.schofieldgavin@dhhs.tas.gov.au [THP](#)



Some of the Hobart consumer representatives.
Back row: (L) Bill Pearson, Robert Thornton, John Porter, David Parker, Peter Hills, John MacKean and Geoffrey Duniam. Front row: Clare Helm, Linley Grant, Debra Carnes and Karen Forster.