

Mersey Messenger

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DID YOU KNOW:

Over 2,500 work related deaths annually in Australia compared to 1,596 road fatalities and 300 homicides (NOHSC 2003)

WHAT 'S IN THE BOX IN THE CAR PARK?

TALLER THAN 6'

THE WIDTH OF A SMALL CAR

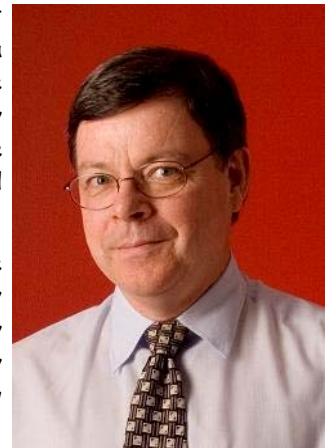
WHAT COULD IT BE?

STAY TUNED—NEXT EDITION WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ANSWERS!

CEO's Message – "Obstetric Services"

This month I would like to specifically comment about Obstetric Services. In recent times, there have been a number of quite inaccurate comments and rumours within the community about the level of service provided at the Mersey Community Hospital. Some of the confusion may have occurred do to the changes in ownership of the hospital and some transitional staff arrangements.

As the owner of the Mersey Community Hospital (MCH,) the Australian Government has provided all of the necessary resources to allow normal Obstetric and Gynaecology Services to continue at the Hospital. The MCH has at any point in time, two appointed Obstetricians. Over the last few months, the Specialist Obstetricians have been locums.



In April, the MCH was pleased to appoint a fulltime Obstetrician - Dr John Ives. Dr Ives is currently at the hospital and is supported by another fulltime locum Specialist. The MCH is continuing its recruitment activities and is hoping to appoint another locally residing Obstetrician later this year. Until another full-time or part-time Specialist is recruited, the second Specialist position will be filled by a locum Specialist.

As well as the Specialist Obstetricians, the MCH has two O&G Registrars/CMO positions and an O&G Resident Medical Officer.

With this compliment of specialist and resident obstetric staff, the Mersey can assure its local community and general practitioners that it continues to accept obstetric patients for antenatal, birthing services including caesarean birth and postnatal care. Gynaecology clinic referrals also continue to be provided as they have been in the past.

Further information about the Obstetric and Gynaecological Services at the Mersey can be obtained by contacting the Hospitals Director of Medical Services - Dr Ed Davis through the Mersey switchboard on 6426 5111.

Dr John Menzies

CEO MCH

Introducing New Employees and Acknowledging Staff Appointments:

Laurie Larsen, Manual Handling Co-Ordinator

Danijela Partridge, Enrolled Nurse

Dr Alex Kan, Director of Anaesthetists/Specialist Anaesthetist

Dr John Ives, Specialist Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

Donna Harris, Admin Officer, Staffing & Recruitment Unit





**New
Ophthalmology
Equipment
costing
\$94,000**

**Eye
Operating
Lists
recommence
12 May 2008**

**New ENT
Operating
Microscope
Arrives**

Congratulations:

**Anne Jong—Awarded
Graduate Certificate for
Nursing Science Clinical
Education.**

**Danijela Partridge—
Successfully completed
Enrolled Nursing Course.**

Theatre Equipment

The Hospital is pleased to announce that the first of its two new operating microscopes has arrived. Until September 2007, the Mersey only had one operating microscope which was used both by the Eye and Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons. This unit broke down and was irreparable. As the new owner of the Mersey Community Hospital, the Australian Government provided funding for two new microscopes - one exclusively for Eye surgery and the other for

ENT surgery. Each microscope has special features suited to the different surgical specialties. The new models and will allow the surgeons to offer the best possible care. The new operating microscope for eye procedures cost just over \$94,000. As these items are manufactured overseas, there is a long lead time between placing the order and receiving the equipment. The wait, however, has been worth it. The new microscope has many new features to

help the surgeons as well as a valuable teaching sidearm which allows resident medical officers and other surgeons to view the procedure as seen by the operating surgeon. The hospital will also be receiving other new eye surgery equipment over the next couple of months. The Hospital will recommence its Eye Operating Lists on 12 May. The Hospital is also trying to arrange for additional eye surgery lists to help patients who have been waiting for surgery. It is expected that the new ENT operating microscope will also arrive in early May.

Influenza Vaccination

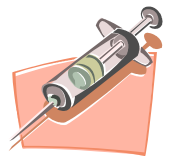
Each year many Australians suffer from the effects of Influenza. A number of Australians also die, depending on the severity of the particular virus.

Fortunately Influenza can be prevented. The Mersey Community Hospital encourages all its staff to have Influenza Vaccination which is provided free of charge.

All staff who registered for vaccination are currently being vaccinated. If any staff member did not put their name down on the list and would like to receive the Flu Vaccine, they should contact Helen West (Ext. 5443) and arrange for their vaccination as soon as possible.

Any members of the community that are

reading Mersey Messenger, particularly people over the age of 65 years, are also encouraged to consider having the Flu Vaccination. Community members should contact their local General Practitioner who will be able to arrange the necessary vaccination.



Critical Care Report

The much anticipated report on critical care services at the Mersey Community Hospital was released on 6 May. The report has recommended that the hospital should continue with its High dependency Unit as it has capacity to meet most of the clinical needs of the hospital as well as being sustainable in the mid to long term. The Mersey will be implementing a number of new measures to further enhance the capacity of its HDU so that it can better meet the needs of both staff and patients.

One new development that is currently being planned is the introduction of a telemedicine link with the ICU at Burnie. More information about this proposed new service will be available next month.

If any one would like to read the report on options for inpatient critical care services at the MCH, it can be accessed on the web at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/>

Welcome to John Perkins, OH&S Co-Ordinator

It is with pleasure that I introduce John Perkins our newly appointed OH&S Co-ordinator.

The Hospital recognizes the need to protect employees and patients from risks within the workplace.

ARE YOU AT RISK?

Workplace injuries occur every 2.4 seconds, 1 in 12 workers are injured seriously enough to lodge workers compensation claims per year.

What is OH&S?

Occupational Health and Safety

What Does an OH&S Co-Ordinator do?

- Implement risk management strategies

- Identify & mitigate hazards
- Assist the Hospital to comply with National & State Legislation and Aust Standards
- Provide employees with appropriate training in OH&S
- Manage Worker's Compensation

John has a broad experience within OH&S having supported several large organizations within Tasmania including Hydro Tas, APPM, Henry Walker (Mining).

John is a Councillor, Latrobe Municipality, Justice of Peace and in his "spare time" umpires local "Aussie Rules".



JOHN'S AIMS:

- Ensure Area Inspections meet standards.
- Streamline Injury Management Processes in line with Comcare requirements.
- Review Emergency Procedure Manuals and provide staff with appropriate education.
- Co-Ordinate the role of the OH&S Committee

"New" Gynaecological Clinic At Mersey Community Hospital

We are pleased to announce that a Gynaecology Procedure Clinic will be opening on 14th May 08 within Suite 2 of the Outpatient Clinics.

Selected minor surgical procedures including colposcopies will be performed by Specialist Gynaecological Clinicians in pleasant surrounds with newly purchased specialized equipment.

Patient referrals should be forwarded by G.P.'s in the usual manner.

We look forward to developing our services to compliment the needs of the Community of the North West Coast.

Celebrating International Midwives Day (IMD) - 5th May, 2008

IMD was celebrated at the Mersey with a poster display organised by Midwife and N.W. Regional Australian College of Midwives Representative, Jan Lawrence. A shared breakfast in the Keating Room gave many staff a good start to the day while Heather Osbourne,

recently appointed Social Worker to the W&CHU, introduced the new Psychosocial Assessment Program. This multidiscipline assessment aims to detect problems & improve follow-up by initiating early interventions thereby improving outcomes for the woman

and her family. The ALPHA Self Assessment Tool will be part of the overall initial Booking In Assessment for Women attending the Antenatal Clinic.

Di McArthur
Clinical Nurse Educator
Womens' & Children's Health Unit

Vacancies Advertised (or coming)

Senior Occupational Therapist

Seek.com Sat 10 May
Closing 26 May

Contact—S Gilham
X5226

Senior Dietician
(12mths temporary)

Seek.com Sat 10/5
Closing 26 May

Contact—S Johns
X5586

Registered Nurses (various)

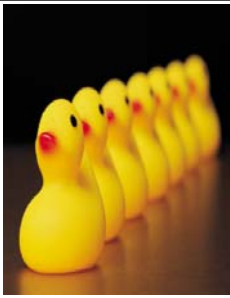
Advocate/Examiner 10/5
Closing 26 May

Contact— A Cabalzar
X5202

PIMS Clerks

Advocate 10 May
Closing 26 May

Contact—T Garnsey
X5103



Are your ducks in a row?

- ✓ Workplace inspections completed?
- ✓ OH&S on your dept meeting agenda?
- ✓ What do you do in a code?
- ✓ Where are your
- ✓ MSDS's stored?
- ✓ Who is your OH&S rep?

QUALITY HOTLINE:

Julie Ext. 5458
 Debbie Ext. 5612
 Heather Ext. 5519
 John Ext. 5665

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please email your Newsletter

Contributions to:
jan.carr@mersey.health.gov.au

June Edition
Deadline 9/6/08

Many thanks to all staff who contributed to this issue



The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

EQuIP - is the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program developed and conducted by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

EQuIP provides the standards our organisation is working toward achieving. The standards are now up to the 4th version - **EQuIP 4.**

EQuIP4 has three functions (or groups of standards) **Clinical, Support and Corporate.**

There should be a laminated table of the EQuIP 4 Functions, Standards and Criteria in your area. Please call our team if you do not have one on display.

During the past week the team have been reviewing the EQuIP 4-

Corporate Function.

Standard 3.2- The organisation maintains a safe environment for employees, consumers/patients and visitors.

This standard covers the criteria (components or area to work on) of safety systems such as policies for safety management, manual handling, radiation, dangerous goods and hazardous substances, and safety of external service providers, visitors and carers.

Julie Duff

Accreditation Coordinator

Allied Health Looking Good!

The Team of Allied Health professionals at the Mersey are looking in tip top shape now that they are wearing new uniforms embossed with the title of their individual discipline on their clothing. Wearing the uniform has made the team highly visible around the hospital which has benefited both patients and staff alike.

Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics and Pharmacy are all represented and are enjoying the benefits of having a full compliment of staff at present.

With a number of newcomers joining the team it is indeed heartening to see that the majority of recent appointments have been local people returning to the area bringing with them new ideas and an enthusiasm which will serve the community well.

Heather Wilson, Speech Pathologist

