

Mersey Messenger

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Volumetric Infusion Pumps	2
Hospital Mortuary	2
Nurse Unit Manager, HDU	3
Royal College of Nursing	3
Accreditation Update	4
Farewell to Staff	4



Update on new
management
transition
arrangements

The MCH
supports
'Jeans for
Genes' Day on
Friday
August 1st

CEO's Message –

In an earlier edition of Mersey Messenger, I indicated that the Commonwealth Government is arranging with the Tasmanian Government to take over the day to day management of the Mersey Community Hospital. I am pleased to indicate that on 18 July 2008 both the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon and the State Minister for Health and Human Services, the Hon Lara Giddings announced that the new arrangements will come into place in August.

The Commonwealth Government will continue to own and fund the hospital. In particular, the Australian Government has offered \$180 million over three years to Tasmania, to ensure that the Mersey Community Hospital continues to play a

strong role in providing ongoing services to the local community. Under the new management arrangements all of the existing staff at the hospital will continue to be employed to ensure all services continue.

A dedicated General Manager position will be retained at the hospital to ensure visible local management. It is anticipated that the position will be advertised quickly.

Although specific details of the transition arrangement are still being discussed, it is expected that they will be concluded during the next couple of weeks. In particular it is expected that those staff who were temporarily on secondment to the Commonwealth will return to the Tasmanian Government employment with no disadvantage. Staff who have been engaged by the Commonwealth since November 2007, will be offered employment by the Tasmanian Government under Tasmanian Employment Awards in line with their current agreements. It is anticipated that with all these new arrangements, the Mersey Community Hospital will continue to provide its usual array of services, including, High Dependency Care to the people of the local community

Dr John Menzies

CEO MCH



Introducing New Employees and Acknowledging Staff Appointments:

Director of Medical Services

Dr Simi Sachdev

Resident Medical Officers

Dr Krishantha FERNANDO

Dr Kshemendra TILLEKERATNE

Dr Masih ASHRAFY

Registrar—Medicine

Dr Gibson PAWAPE

Co-Ordinator Human Resources

Ms Simone WINTER,

Senior Physiotherapist

Ms Erin SENZ,

Dietician

Ms Jacqui PLANTINGA

Administration—Nurse Rostering

Ms Rachel Barrett

New Volumetric Infusion Pumps Installed throughout the State

Over 75
Volumetric
Infusion
Pumps
purchased
and
installed at
MCH

In March 2008 Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd were contracted by the DHHS to provide Volumetric Infusion Pumps and Consumables to all public hospitals throughout the State.

The Mersey Community Hospital was incorporated

in this transition process to ensure best clinical practices are maintained throughout the State as patients are regularly transferred between other Tasmanian public hospitals and the Mersey Community Hospital for ongoing care with Volumetric Infusion Pumps insitu.



The North West Region has been nominated as the first region within the State to instal the new pumps.

Commencing Monday, 30th June, 2008 for a two week period representatives from Baxter Healthcare Pty. Ltd. will be onsite to assist with education and implementation of the new Volumetric Infusion Pumps and consumables.

Baxter Representative, Odysseas Papanestoras, provides education to Sharon Holland, Graduate Nurse.

Hospital Mortuary Recent Improvements

Hospital
Mortuary
Improved
And
Upgraded

After 45 years, the Mersey Community Hospital Mortuary has been improved and upgraded. The improvements have included painting and refurbishment of the deceased viewing rooms, and installation of new cool room facilities.

The refurbished viewing rooms will provide relatives with a more suitable and private environment in which to view a deceased family member. These improvements will assist with the hospital's obligation of ensuring that deceased persons are managed in a respectful and caring way.



Jacqueline Van Den Berg

Nurse Unit Manager, HDU

The hospital is pleased to provide the following profile of the recently appointed new Nurse Unit Manager of the High Dependency Unit. Jacqueline Van Den Berg, having relocated from South Africa accepted a position as a registered nurse at the Mersey Community Hospital on 15 July 2002.

Jacqueline has training in Nursing Intensive Care and Emergency Care and her professionalism and clinical knowledge provides a beneficial addition to the hospital and the community.

Jacqueline completed a B. Adv. Dip in Clinical Nursing, Pharmacology and Management in South Africa. She worked as a Nurse Practitioner in South Africa before coming to Tasmania. After 2 years working in Intensive Care at the Mersey Community Hospital she successfully obtained a Graduate Certificate in Critical Care and the specialty in Cardiac Nursing, as the North West Coast of Tasmania has a very high incidence of cardiovascular disease. Jacqueline regards her position as Manager of the HDU as a very exciting new challenge, and she is very positive about the future of the HDU. With the

help of the hospital's HDU Educator - Kerry Harvey it is hoped that she will be able to assist registered nurses with a special interest in Acute Care Nursing to obtain the necessary skills required for working in the area.

Jacqueline is pleased that the hospital is about to commence a HDU Course. It is hoped that after completing the course, nurses will be inspired to further their careers in specialised critical care nursing.



Royal College of Nursing

Australia Endorsed Courses

On the 27th June Rebekah Edwards and I went to Melbourne to attend an Authorised Providers of Endorsed Courses (APEC) workshop.

During the workshop the endorsement process and criteria was explained and also an explanation of how the Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) points are awarded.

Our organisation has been able to meet the criteria to become endorsed providers for a two year period, providing that we meet our ongoing commitment to RCNA and adhere to the reporting and monitoring of APEC standards for our educational activities.

The Endorsement process is designed to enable nurses professional assess, and to give recognition to short postgraduate nursing courses and other educational activities, such as seminars, conferences and workshops. This demonstrates a standard considered appropriate to facilitate the further education of

nurses. It allows nurses to demonstrate professional development by accruing CNE points and participate in Life Long Learning Program. These educational activities submitted to RCNA are rigorously reviewed by highly skilled and eminently qualified healths professional who are members of the RCNA.

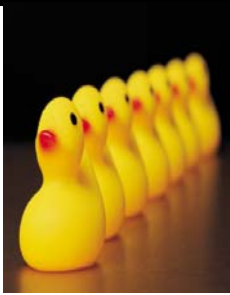
We are very proud to be able to endorse our courses Nationally. We are now able to advertise courses on the Royal College of Nursing website.

Mersey Community Hospital is the second hospital in the State to gain this endorsement and we feel this provides an excellent opportunity for our nurses and our hospital.

Kerry Harvey
Nurse Education

HDU
Course
Will be
Available
to all
Registered
Nurses
At MCH

MCH
gains
Endorsement
By
Royal
College
Of
Nursing



Do you know?

If not ASK your
Manager?

√What clinical indicators
are collected in your
department and
results/action?

√What audits are
undertaken and
are the results in
the Quality Folder?

√Are clinical indicators
and audits part of your
departments meeting agenda

QUALITY HOTLINE:

Julie Ext. 5468
Debbie Ext. 5612
Heather Ext. 5519

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please email your
Newsletter

Contributions to:
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health.gov.au

Next Edition
Deadline 7 Aug 08

Many thanks to all
staff who contributed
to this issue



The Australian Council
on Healthcare Standards

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

In past newsletters we have mentioned words such as "**Clinical Indicators**", "**Audits and Chart Review**".

CLINICAL INDICATORS?

Clinical Indicators are the way we measure specific clinical conditions or functions that have a particular significance for particular conditions.

The ACHS also define a clinical indicator as a measure of the clinical management and outcome of care.

Clinical indicators are 'flags' which through the collection of data/numbers can alert you as a clinician to possible problems and opportunities to improve patient care.

Some of the examples of "clinical indicators" we measure at our hospital are:

Patients returning to theatre within the same admission

Day patients staying overnight

Emergency Department triage- was the patient seen within correct timeframe

Falls (location, injury) and Pressure Ulcers- occurrences in hospital

Pathology turn around times- do we receive results in a timely manner

Following the collection of clinical indicators each department must review their results and feed back their review process and actions to the "Clinical Risk Committee". Explanations are discussed for any unusual results.

Clinical indicators are measured against other peer/like hospitals to benchmark our performance with other clinicians. "What do you measure in your department and is it discussed at your departmental meetings?" Ask your Manager about current results.

AUDITS AND CHART REVIEW?

Audits and chart review are an opportunity to investigate practice and improve on patient care and safety.

Some of the audits and review carried out at MCH are:

Review of medical records- documentation, storage, privacy

Review of Code Blue events- timely, documentation compliance

Review of checking procedures for emergency equipment

Survey of patient satisfaction- admission, discharge, food, cleaning

OH&S audits- environmental, hazards, signage, exits, cleaning, food handling

Should you be conducting audits to make improvements in your department as part of your quality program?

Can you prove you have reviewed all aspects of the area you currently work?

Julie Duff, **ADNS/Accreditation Coordinator**

Farewell to:

Dr Kanwiljit KAUR, Resident Medical Officer—*Dr Kaur has accepted a position at East Devonport Medical Centre.*

Dr Shahid Chowdhury, Resident Medical Officer —*Dr Chowdhury has accepted a position at NWRH.*

Mr Graeme Carswell, Director of Corporate Services— *Commonwealth Govt Appointed — returned to Queensland.*

We wish them success and happiness in their future endeavours.