

Mersey Messenger

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Update on new management transition arrangements

CEO's Message –

On 27 August 2008, representatives of the Australian and Tasmanian Governments signed a Heads of Agreement for the Tasmanian Government to take over the day to day management and operations of the Mersey Community Hospital (MCH).

Under the Agreement, the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the CEO at the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) will assist with the administration of the hospital. The Commonwealth Government will continue to own the MCH and it has committed to providing up to \$180 million over 3 years to Tasmania to



manage the hospital. This funding is to be used solely for the MCH. The hospital will continue to be known as the Mersey Community Hospital and will continue to provide its current profile of services.

In addition, over the next year or two it is likely that the hospital will provide additional services such as rehabilitation or enhanced services such as oncology and day surgery. The arrangement will ensure the continuation of current services, better integration with other Tasmanian Health Services, whilst causing either no or minimal disruptions to staff and the Community.

It is hoped that the changes to the Hospital's management will be as seamless as possible for patients, staff, general practitioners, contractors and community support agencies. The main visible changes will relate to senior personnel who are currently employed under contract by the Australian Government. The Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services will advertise immediately for a new General Manager to be appointed for the MCH. The new General Manager will report to the CEO at the NWRH. It is also expected that other senior staff will be appointed to assist with Medical Administration and Financial Services.

The new Management Team will be responsible for ensuring the MCH's services are delivered in accordance with the standards and requirements outlined in the Heads of Agreement signed by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

Finally, as this is my last contribution to the Mersey Messenger, I would like to thank all of the staff at the Mersey Community Hospital for their patience and professional support over the last 12 months as the Mersey Community Hospital went through its various changes of management. It is a great reflection on the quality and dedication of staff at the hospital that the Mersey continued to provide uninterrupted, excellent services to the patients and community in the North West of the State. It has been my pleasure working with the team at the Mersey, and I look forward to continuing a professional liaison with the hospital as it continues to provide services to the people of the Northern Tasmania.

Dr John Menzies, CEO

1 in 20
Children
Are
Borne With
Some Form
Of
Genetic
Fault

Jeans for Genes

Raising funds for today's Scientist for
Tomorrow's Children

Jeans for Genes is a major fundraiser of the Children's Medical Research Institute.

Chances are you probably know someone who has a genetic disease, because one in twenty children are born with some form of genetic fault. There are children with leukaemia, muscular dystrophy, genetic defects and many other disorders. The scientists at the Children's Medical Research Institute are working to try to prevent these diseases



before they occur in our children or where that is not possible to develop better treatments.

The Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) is an independent organisation committed to unlocking the mysteries of disease. Scientists investigate conditions such as birth defects, cancer, and epilepsy. Major advances in prevention and treatment come from research into the fundamental processes of life. Their work is made possible by our community of supporters and Jeans for Genes®. This year the CMRI celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Melissa Dick has been supporting and organising Jeans for Genes Day for the past 8 years. After recently becoming a mother herself, the cause is even more "special".

This year a total of \$394.10 was raised. Congratulations Melissa and "thank you" to all those staff members who supported this worthwhile charity.

Supporting the cause are: Karen Barber, Carolyn Pearce and Melissa Dick.

Dr Mohammed ASHFRAFI Fellowship Award

The International College of Surgeons (ICS) is a global organization dedicated to bringing together surgeons and surgical specialists of all nations, races, and creeds to promote surgical excellence for the benefit of all of mankind and to foster fellowship worldwide.

Congratulations are extended to Dr Mohammed Ashrafi, Surgical Registrar having recently been awarded Fellowship of the International College of Surgeons in General Surgery.

Dr Ashrafi has actively participated in the presentation of several papers at the Annual Scientific Congress on behalf of the International College.



Congratulations
Dr Mohammed
Ashrafi

New Private Consulting Rooms

Over the last couple of months, the hospital has been refurbishing the area that was previously occupied by the Vascular Laboratory on the first floor foyer area of block A. The new area will house Private Consulting Rooms which will be used by local specialist doctors and visiting specialists who attend the Mersey. The

new facility will have a small reception area, two consulting rooms and a treatment room for patients who need minor treatments or dressings. It is expected that the new area will be commissioned in September and will allow the hospital the opportunity to offer additional services in the future.

New Computer Training Facility

A dedicated Staff Computer Training Facility is now operational within the Old Nurses Home Building.

The Training Facility shall provide a number of short training courses for all staff members. The courses will be on the programs available throughout the hospital including operational programs such as Electronic Incident Management Systems, Patient Information Management Systems (Homer, EDIS) and general office programs—Microsoft Office Suite.

The Facility consists of 12 computers, lap top and overhead projector.

Alison Beswick, Administration Assistant is available for bookings on Ext 5622.



Allied Health Professionals undertake EIMS Training with the assistance of Heather Craigie, EIMS Co-Ordinator.

Computer
Training
Facility
Bookings/Keys
can be
arranged by
contacting
Alison Beswick
(5622)

Installation of New Lift Motors

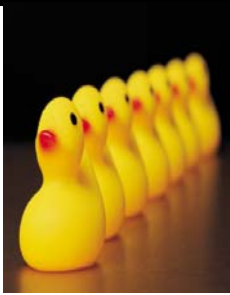


Visitors to the Hospital on Tuesday, 5th August, 2008 may have been a little perplexed as to why a huge crane was dominating the Main Hospital Entrance.

It took the skill and expertise of Statewide Cranes and OTIS Maintenance Staff to negotiate the replacement of Lift Motors recently at the Hospital.

The newly installed motors will ensure optimum service provision thus alleviating the present jerking and unlevel floor heights whilst entering and exiting the lifts.

As the photograph demonstrates, the height which the motors were lifted for installation was no easy feat!



Can you log an incident on EIMS?

Where are your department meeting minutes kept?

Do they include improvements resulting from

Incidents (clinical, non clinical or OH&S) ?

Patient feedback?

Who is your OH&S committee member?

Is OH&S discussed at your department meetings?

QUALITY HOTLINE:

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

NEWSLETTER

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please email your Newsletter

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

Next Edition

Deadline 12 Sept 08

Many thanks to all staff who contributed to this issue



The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

SUPPORT FUNCTION

2.1.2 The integrated organisation-wide risk management policy and system ensure that corporate and clinical risks are identified, minimised and managed.

The development and implementation of an integrated risk management framework for Corporate (non-clinical) and Clinical services is the intent of this criterion

Mersey Community Hospital has recently reviewed the Risk Management Policy and this can be found on "O" Drive/hasmersey/MCH Policies (Read Only)

The MCH Risk Management Policy statement is:-

It is the responsibility of all employees to communicate potential and actual situations that are identified as presenting a risk to patients, staff and visitors and the Hospital's financial status or reputation.

All staff must use all relevant measures to minimise risk in their work area.

2.1.3 Health care incidents, complaints and feedback are managed to ensure improvements to the systems of care.

This criterion relates to the effectiveness of mechanisms in place to manage health care incidents as and when they occur, and for preventing their recurrence. Incidents, complaints and feedback should be managed with due regard to privacy and confidentiality.

Reporting of clinical and corporate (non clinical) incidents and feedback - complaints into EIMS is a key component of this criteria. This initiates a process to prioritise, classify, investigate and implement improvements to prevent or minimise a recurrence of the incident or complaint.

Many Criteria require compliance with the relevant legislation and/or Australian Standards.

Legislative Law can be accessed on-line from the following two websites.

Tasmanian Legislation. <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au>.

Commonwealth Legislation <http://www.austlii.edu.au>

Australian Standards: some hard copies can be found in our library. Alternatively Australian Standards can be obtained by contacting our Librarian, Mary Shepherd. You speak directly with Mary each Thursday afternoon, in the library 2D, or via email or telephone. 6430 6534

Heather Craigie

Risk Management Co-ordinator

Congratulations: -

The **HESTA Australian Nursing Awards** celebrates the skill and achievements of Australia's nurses. This year, three Mersey Community Hospital nurses were nominated for the Innovation in Nursing Award 2008.

Congratulations:

Vicky Hickman, Robbie Bennet and Gaye Clarke.



Wanted—used Magazines for utilisation within Outpatient Clinic Waiting Rooms—please deliver to Outpatient Reception.