



# TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

## Statewide Clinical Networks

### What are Clinical Networks?

Clinical Networks have been operating successfully in the United Kingdom since the late 1990's and more recently New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria. They are key enablers in delivering a sustainable service system and are responsible for developing and implementing a range of service improvements including the:

- Provision of clinical advice on service system development, policy and clinical reform
- Improving information exchange between the department, providers and consumers
- Providing a forum for promulgation of evidence based practice standards, protocols and pathways
- Enhancing collaboration and coordination across the care continuum to improve patient outcomes
- Facilitate linkages, collaboration, education and professional development opportunities and support for service providers
- Improving the prevention, detection and management of chronic disease

### How does this help Tasmanians?

Clinical networks are recognised nationally and internationally as key mechanisms in fostering greater involvement of clinicians and consumers in state wide planning delivery, evaluation and improvement of health services resulting in better patient outcomes.

### What has happened so far?

The last 12 months has seen the founding of the Clinical Advisory Council – the governance body for all Clinical Networks along with the establishment of the following clinical networks and commencement of key projects.



Dr Cameron Hunter

The establishment of the **Tasmanian Cancer Clinical Network (TCCN)** following the conclusion of the first phase of the Cancer Services Networks National Demonstration Program (CanNET) is nearing completion.

- **The TCCN Steering Committee** is being established.
- **An Operational Stakeholder List** of 450 individual including clinicians, consumers and representatives of non government support agencies is now being utilised.
- **The TCCN has been involved in progressing two Australian Government funded joint jurisdictional projects with Victoria;** one working on a range of developments for adolescent and young Tasmanian with cancer and the other, the Gynaecological Cancer Workforce Initiative which seeks to improve outcomes and support for women with a gynaecological cancer.
- **For further information,** contact Jane Barrett, Clinical Network Policy and Project Officer (03) 6233 4811.

# Statewide Clinical Networks (continued)



Dr David Dunbabin

The first four key projects for the **Aged Care and Rehabilitation Network** are now well underway and good process is being made. In keeping with the aim of the network, these projects all link together people and projects across sectors, regions and disciplines.

- **The State Wide Directory** project working groups has developed a survey to determine the needs of the sector
- **The Long stay Older Patient Terminology** project working group has now interviewed all the key stakeholders around the current programs, services and nomenclature around programs designed for older people in the hospital system; a draft report has been developed.
- **The Standardised Assessment Tools** project working group has identified that the key issue is information flow through the patient journey and as such has decided to produce a framework of assessment tools by mapping patient journeys.
- **The Capacity Toolkit** project working group has gained approval from the NSW government to produce a Tasmanian version of the Capacity Toolkit and the content application is underway with advice from a subcommittee of legal experts.

**For further information**, contact Nadia Mahjouri, Clinical Network Aged Care and Rehabilitation (03) 62365614



Prof Michael Ashby

To date there has been a high level of community interest and broad based support for developing the **Palliative Care Network**. Projects underway include:

- **Advance Care Planning** project improving provision of information about advance care planning to the public and professionals and to make information about existing advance care plans more broadly available to medical professionals.
- **Communications Resources** project designed for the public and health professionals regarding provision of patient fact sheets, clinical guidelines on major symptoms and a drug formulary.
- **Grief and Bereavement** project to build community support capacity by making group focused grief and bereavement resources more widely available.
- **For further information**, contact Carole McQueeney (03) 6233 0848 (Mon - Wed.) Bruce Wilson (03) 6236 5616 (Wed - Thur).

## What will happen next?

The establishment of the Chronic Disease Network has been identified as a priority for late 2009 and has commenced. This network will be a major vehicle for driving the implementation of *Connecting Care*, a chronic disease framework for Tasmania. *Connecting Care* aims to improve the prevention, detection and management of chronic disease in Tasmania and will be identifying key areas for action. For further information, contact Amanda Daly, Project Consultant (03) 6236 5622.

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