



Wakefield Health Regional Newsletter

Welcome to the first of a new look Newsletter for the Wakefield Region.

Most of you would be aware that from the 1st of July we have adopted a Portfolio approach to service delivery within the Region, and also adopted an enlarged decision-making group. In line with this we have now broadened the content of the newsletter in order that we can keep all staff and other organisations updated on what is occurring in Wakefield.

This issue includes reports from the Aboriginal Health, Residential Aged Care & the Healthy Communities Portfolios, with the remaining Portfolios of Human Resources, Finance, Acute Services, Mental Health, Contracting & Internal Audit, and Planning being covered over the next two issues.

The opportunity also exists for any Health Unit or other service provider in the Region to make a contribution at any time. These contributions can be forwarded to Alice Norman at the Regional Office (email alice.norman@saugov.sa.gov.au).

I hope that this new format and content will assist in better informing you and your staff about the various activities occurring in Wakefield, and please take the opportunity to pass it on.

Kind regards

Gary Stewart
Regional General Manager

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FROM THE REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER

Well; we have just completed another financial year, with a new one upon us. We finished very close to our Budget in 04/05 (\$15k over in a total spend of almost \$60 Million) and this year is looking positive in Budget terms and over the next month or so I hope to be able to announce a significant new investment in Primary Health Care in the Wakefield Region. Final allocations to individual Units should be provided in the next week or so.

Board of Directors: I am pleased to advise that Graham Wearn is the new Chair of the Board, with Don Dale as Deputy. James Maitland was precluded by the Constitution in continuing as the Chair, as he had already served five continuous years in that position. I congratulate Graham, and look forward to working closely with him.

Strategic Planning: Three workshops (at Kadina, Clare & Tanunda) involving some 80 people were held as the first part of the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for Wakefield Health. Andi Sebastian facilitated these workshops, and the quality and ideas that were suggested were excellent. Over the next few weeks Kylie Williams & Andi will work together to progress the plan to the next stage.

Portfolios: There has been some planning work undertaken in Mental Health, Aboriginal Health and Healthy Communities (formerly Community Health), and there has been a great deal of work undertaken by the respective Portfolio Holders as they have now taken responsibility for the respective areas.

Gawler Health Service: It is pleasing to report that the Women & Children's Hospital is now working with Gawler in the provision of Obstetric & Gynaecology Services. This new partnership offers great opportunities for increased choices for women in the Gawler area, and should have spin off benefits for the entire Region.

Regional Office: The downstairs area of the new Regional Office has almost been completed, and I expect the first floor to be completed in the next few weeks, after which Payroll and Finance will relocate. The move to new premises has not been without its challenges, but I look forward to having all of our staff located together over the next few weeks.

General: The last few months has seen the introduction of the Portfolio system, the transfer of resources from the Regional Office to Health Units, the physical transfer of the Regional Office, as well as the wind down of one financial year and the budget process for another. All of these have added to the workload of individuals, and Health Units. My sincere thanks to all for their outstanding efforts during this period of significant change.

Gary Stewart
Regional General Manager

PORTFOLIO UPDATES

Aboriginal Health

With the commencement of the new portfolio arrangements, SYPHS as manager of the Aboriginal Health Portfolio has been actively engaged in a number of exciting initiatives, including:

- Reaching agreement with the Wakefield Aboriginal Health Forum to provide administrative and project support to the Forum and the Wakefield Aboriginal Health Alliance, functions previously provided by Wakefield Health. As the 'peak' advisory body to the region on Aboriginal health issues, the Aboriginal Health Forum's direct relationship with the Wakefield Health Board remains unchanged under these new arrangements.
- Reaching agreement with NYPHS and CYPHS regarding the co-location of the Aboriginal Health, HACC and Narungga Elder Care programs to improve service coordination and enhance client outcomes. The Narungga Elder Care, Roberts Street Maitland premises is undergoing refurbishment to accommodate staff of these programs.
- Recruitment to the Regional Aboriginal Health Services Manager position, Sue Edwards has recently been appointed to the position and while currently located at Wallaroo Hospital, Sue will re-locate to Maitland once the Narungga Elder Care facility refurbishment project is completed.
- Negotiating with the Goretta Aboriginal Corporation a Memorandum of Agreement to provide management and support services which facilitate efficient and effective provision of health services to the community of Pt Pearce.
- Facilitated a workshop with providers of services to the Pt Pearce community, resulting in agreement to:

- increase General Practitioner clinical and education services
- implement service coordination strategies
- increase staff participation in the broad range of health interventions.
- develop a primary health care framework
- explore options to improve data collection and support a coordinated care approach to client services.

- Management and monitoring of a services to Aboriginal people Scoping study in the Wakefield Health region (excluding the Yorke Peninsula) UniSA Social Policy Branch has been contracted to:
 - identify service gaps and access barriers
 - provide options to meet identified service needs
 - provide critical information to inform regional and local service planning
 - inform staff placement options.

A final report will be available by 30 September 2005.

- The co-location of Maitland based Aboriginal services together with the proposed signing of a service agreement with Goretta Aboriginal Corporation and the establishment of the Copper Coast Aboriginal Meeting Place at Moonta has provided a catalyst for the development of a Yorke Peninsula Aboriginal Health Service.

The structure of this service is intended to improve our effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery service to Aboriginal people in settings that are local and appropriate. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals to lead the first stage of development of this exciting new concept.

While there is currently significant focus on the Yorke Peninsula, the Aboriginal Health Portfolio is very much aware: that there are Aboriginal people resident in other parts of the region that require support; and that there are health services that recognise this need and are eager to provide appropriate services. We keenly await the final report of the scoping study (mentioned above) to inform service development in those areas of identified need.

Barb Carlin

Aboriginal Health Portfolio Holder

Residential Aged Care

The role, function and structure of the aged care portfolio have been the focus of our initial activities. To an extent we have been influenced by general regional consensus that our approach to residential aged care management and the application of standards should be consistent and to some extent transportable. It is the latter component that has potential to facilitate the sharing and integration of ideas as well as providing a region wide management resource that can support individual health units should they require.

The proposed structure for the portfolio will be put to stakeholders and the Regional Executive Group through a discussion document in the coming month. Initial thoughts are that a program manager will be appointed who will have clinical aged care experience and that they would work in a consultative manner with all sites. The classification, term and working arrangements of such a position potentially would have many permutations that I do not expect will be finalised until after the consultation phase. My personal view, prior to

We look forward to working with Health Units in this endeavour.

CEOs are reminded that all available senior staff are required to attend the Senior Staff Forum to be held on 29 and 30 September at the Barossa Weintal Resort, Main Street, Tanunda. The focus of the Forum will be the Cultural Respect Framework.

consultation, is that that a multi-classification job and person specification describing the role and function will be established, potentially on a part-time basis, and advertised initially within the Region by mid September.

Concurrent to these developments the managers of the WACS sites have determined that it is now timely to review their structure and how it might relate to the aged care portfolio. Accordingly this group have initiated some self-analysis through a "SWOT" and designed a consultation process by way of a questionnaire to aged care stakeholders. It is their intent to collate the feedback they receive and "marry" it in with their own self-analysis before using it to prepare a scoping document that will provide a series of recommendations to the Regional Executive Group. It is expected that this exercise will be completed by the end of August. The WACS initiative is timely given that the overarching aged care portfolio has potential to provide "seamless" Wakefield Health aged care standards which is slightly different in structure to what has been in place with WACS vs non-WACS sites / beds.

Timelines for Aged Care portfolio

Task	Responsible	Date
Analysis of WACS structure	WACS management group	Early August 2005
Proposed structure of Aged Care portfolio – a discussion document	Aged Care Portfolio manager	Mid August 2005
Scoping paper with recommendations to REG regarding WACS	WACS management Group	September REG meeting
Determination of role and function of aged care program manager	Aged Care Portfolio Manager	Early September 2005
Establishment of Wakefield Health Aged Care Reference Group	Aged Care Portfolio Manager	Mid September 2005
Appointment of Aged Care Program Manager	Aged Care Portfolio Manager	October / November 2005

Peter Mullen

Residential Aged Care Portfolio Holder

Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities Portfolio encompasses community health services, domiciliary care services and primary health care including health promotion activity. The name 'Healthy Communities' was chosen because it expresses in easily understood terms a focus on a primary health care and early intervention approach. This is aligned to current national, state and regional priorities in health care which are focussed on promoting, protecting and improving the health and well-being of our community. This is challenging and exciting work that is making a real difference in peoples lives.

We are currently recruiting to a new position of Program Manager, Healthy Communities. We are looking for a passionate, knowledgeable and committed person who will manage the initiatives that the portfolio will be undertaking in the next few years. We hope to have an person in this role in the very near future. We will also soon commence recruiting to a position that will coordinate primary health

including health promotion activity across the region. This will be similar to the position held until recently by Barry Fowler.

This financial year a decision was made in the region to shift \$560,000 from hospital funding allocations to create a pool of funding to allow us to pursue new primary health initiatives across the region. A range of initiatives have been considered and we will soon be in a position to announce what the funding will be used for, however the focus will be on early childhood intervention. The Healthy Communities Portfolio is managing a collaborative allocation process.

Wakefield Health has been advised of our success in securing a grant of \$245,000 from the Alcohol Research Foundation for a two-year project that has three goals. The first is to facilitate change regarding the South Australian Policing policy in relation to young people under the age of 18 years and specific alcohol related offences.

The second is to engage the target group in early intervention to address high-risk alcohol related behaviours and the third, to provide the community with updated education on youth alcohol use to disperse previously accepted cultures of alcohol consumption. The project commenced on 1 July and will conclude at the end of June 2007.

The portfolio has recently secured agreement from community health units across the region who will become community partners in a statewide 'Good Sports Accreditation Program'. It is founded on a recognition that sports clubs are important amenities in local communities. Most Australians join them as they play, coach, or support teams. Clubs develop sporting talent and expertise, provide healthy recreation and

entertainment, and bind many communities together. However the misuse of alcohol threatens the future of some clubs, and the games they play. Clubs holding a licence to serve alcohol must do so responsibly in order to avoid conflict, drink driving, and legal liability for damages. This program aims to strengthen local sports clubs, the future of their sport, their financial viability and their support in the community, by applying Good Sports policies regarding the responsible use of alcohol.

While the portfolio is still very much in its infancy, there are many exciting initiatives already under way or planned that will support local health services to be more effective in their role of advancing the health and wellbeing of local communities.

Erik Moen

Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Corporate Governance Workshop

For Board Directors and Senior Health Unit Managers

Tuesday, 13 September 2005 at Clare

Contact: Alice Norman at Wakefield Health – 8842 6550

Contemplating Retirement Seminar

For Health Service Staff

Wednesday, 28 September 2005 at Gawler

Contact: Murray Squire or Julie McCowat – 8521 2000

Senior Staff Forum – Cultural Respect Framework Workshop

For Regional Managers and Senior Health Service Staff and Aboriginal Health Forum Members

Thursday 29 and Friday 30 September 2005 at Barossa Weintal Resort

Contact: Mandy Noye at Wakefield Health – 8842 6550

Farmers & Families - Yorke Peninsula Field Days

For people of all ages looking at better health options!

27 to 29 September 2005 at Larwood Pavilion, Paskeville

Contact: Trish Cook - 8842 6555 or 0400 010 922

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Articles for next edition due: **16 September 2005**