

December 2010

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"Western Linkages is shared wisdom

... when I read the minutes I just could not believe how much has happened and all the new things going on!"

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Merry Christmas from all at Western Linkages.

It has been another year of change and more to come with the raft of reforms underway within our sector!! Yet again we have been blown away by the level of commitment and enthusiasm of service providers in the West, both for our project and for the clients. Thank you for your participation in workgroups, at regional forums, and all your work behind the scenes to get our regional initiatives up and running. We look forward to working with you in 2011!

Community Care Common Standards

As service providers are aware a series of information presentations on the new Community Care Common Standards have been taking place in Adelaide and Nationally during Nov / December. The Common standards will streamline reporting requirements for agencies that receive funding for community care programs from both State and Australian Governments. This will replace the HACC National Service standards cover programs receiving funding from HACC, CACP, EACH, EACHD and NRCP. It will mean one quality review per 3 year period rather than the potential four reviews that has applied. The new standards are still based on a continuous quality improvement framework.

The intention has been to streamline reporting requirements and simplify the framework into three standards 1: Effective Management, 2: Appropriate Access and Service Delivery, 3: Service User Rights and Responsibilities with eighteen clearly defined expected outcomes that eliminate the previous duplication. The opportunity for joint site visits where agencies receive State and Australian Governments will be part of the new review process.

The Community Care Common Standards will be implemented in South Australia from 1 March 2011. A guide has been developed to assist service providers to prepare for and participate in the quality review. Agencies who receive notification of their next quality review after 1 March 2011 will be participating under the new process. Those who receive notification prior to 1 March 2011 will be reviewed using the existing standards.

Supplementary information specific to each state is available. In South Australia the supplementary information recommends that HACC funded services be familiar with the contents of the HACC Agreement as there have been changes with all agreements over the last three years. This includes additional requirements i.e. the requirement for all services to have a Disability Action Plan, Criminal History Checks for staff, contractors and volunteers (renewed every three years), Due Recognition and compliance with the Carers Recognition Act 2005.

For further information or to order copies of the guide please visit

www.comcarestandards.com.au

A helpdesk is available by emailing COMCARESTANDARDS@GGJ.COM.AU

or telephone helpdesk 1300 939 609

Western Adelaide Dementia Planning Group (WADPG)



Driving and Dementia Dementia Forum 2011

Tues 22 March, 2011 9.30am – 12.30pm (registration 9.00am)
Parks Community Centre, Cowan St, Angle Park.

WADPG is a group of agencies providing Dementia Care services and support in the Western region. The group aims to facilitate partnership, service reform and networking amongst Dementia service providers. The group meets monthly, providing a platform for regional issues and an opportunity for collaboration.

WADPG facilitates an annual Dementia Forum. The theme for 2011 is Driving and Dementia. Issues around driving and Dementia have been raised recently in the West through the member organizations. This forum topic is also in line with the State Dementia Action Plan which articulates the need to address transport needs for the growing number of South Australians with Dementia.

The keynote speaker for the day will be Neurologist Dr. Karyn Boundy from TQEH Memory Unit. Dr Boundy will present an overview of current research in Dementia and Driving. She has been involved in the working party to update the National Transport Commission "Austroads Guidelines". The forum will provide an opportunity to gain insight into what the changes are to the revised guidelines and gain a further understanding of the medical determination of fitness to drive and mandatory reporting requirements in SA.

Alzheimer's Australia will provide information on the brain changes associated with Dementia and importantly on the supports available to people who are relinquishing their driver's licence due to Dementia. A consumer perspective will provide valuable insight into this experience.

The SA Occupational Therapy Driver Interest Group will provide an overview of the role of driver trained occupational therapy service and how OT's can assist clients to adjust to changes in driving capacity. Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) will provide information on the assessment process for Drivers referred to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles under Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines and the format of the practical driving assessment conducted to determine competence.

The forum will also include presentations on options for Community Transport both for existing services and the shape of transport in the future with a presentation from OFTA on development of the Community Passenger Networks.

[Click here for Dementia Forum Registration](#) (see advance notice flyer next page)

**DEMENTIA AND DRIVING
REGIONAL DEMENTIA FORUM**

WESTERN LINKAGES REGIONAL FORUM

Organised by
Western Dementia Action Planning Group
A workgroup of Western Linkages

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF REGIONAL DEMENTIA FORUM
'Dementia and Driving'**

An increasing number of South Australians will face the challenge of
relinquishing their driver's licence due to Dementia

*Come and hear the latest research in Dementia and Driving and explore the
supports and options available now and in the future to ensure people with
Dementia have access to services to meet their needs.*

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Keynote: Neurologist Dr Karyn Boundy TQEH

Dementia and Driving Current Research

Consumer Perspective—The experience of relinquishing the choice to drive

Occupational Therapy assistance to adjust to changes in driving capacity

Revised National Transport Guidelines on assessing fitness to drive

Mandatory reporting requirements in SA

Who can service providers approach if there is a concern for client safety?

Community Transport Options

Community Passenger Networks— shaping Community Transport in the future

Date: Tues 22 March

Time: 9.00am – 12.30pm (registration from 8.30am)

Cost: \$25.00 please pay on the day (receipts will be issued)

Venue: Parks Community Centre Arts & Functions Centre

Cowan St, Angle Park

[Click here to register](#), or visit our website and follow the links!

www.westernlinkages.org.au

Respite Workgroup

There are some changes to the Respite Workgroup for 2011. Firstly there is a change of name to the 'Respite Co-ordinators Network'. The first meeting for 2011 will be on Wednesday 16th February, 1-2.30pm and bi-monthly from then on:

20 April

15 June

17 Aug

19 Oct

21 Dec

These network meetings are open to any respite provider involved with the HACCC target group in the West, and new participants are always welcome. It is an opportunity to:

- Enhance knowledge of what is available in the region
- Network with peers from other agencies
- Share knowledge and experience
- Further your professional development in an out-of-agency environment
- Discuss issues and solutions
- Cross refer clients

So please consider this an open invitation to come along to a Respite Co-ordinators Network meeting in 2011, we would love to see you there.

Social Isolation Workgroup

The SI Workgroup is also considering a name change to better reflect its role, this will be up for discussion at our next meeting on Wed 23rd February, 1-2.30pm. The Workgroup is looking forward to being involved in some exciting new initiatives for 2011. If the funding applications are successful, we will be:

- Learning more about the Uni SA Alone in a Crowd research through a series of workshops
- Trialling a revised Better Practice Project training module that will incorporate the learning outcomes from the Alone in a Crowd Research

If you would like to know more about the Alone in a Crowd research around loneliness in older people, check out this link:

http://www.unisa.edu.au/hls/Our_Research/Grants_and_Publications/AloneInCrowd.asp

We are also looking forward to the 'Keep Growing' event in the Botanic Gardens, targeting social engagement and community participation through gardening. Watch this space!

In Home Services Workgroup

The In Home Services Workgroup (IHS) is continuing to work on the Taxi Transport Project. Last year IHS amalgamated with the Complex Domestic Assistance Workgroup. The fusion of the two workgroups included an undertaking to keep Complex Domestic Assistance (aka Squalor) issues on the agenda. Complex Domestic Assistance Care Planning is incorporated into meetings to provide an opportunity for interagency collaboration and to share information and expertise in working with people for whom hoarding and squalor is an issue. The group has developed Inter Agency Care Planning Principals to guide this element of our work. The group has endeavoured to broaden the membership to extend this opportunity to other service providers within the sector.

A Squalor and Hoarding Workshop held on 2 Dec by Psychologist and squalor researcher Dr Chris Mogan. This opportunity was facilitated by the Squalor Network convened by Anglicare. The workshop was extremely well attended reflecting the level of concern around squalor issues in the community. Research suggests that 5% of the Australia population experience compulsive hoarding . This represents a greater prevalence than schizophrenia or obsessive compulsive disorder.

Dr Mogan discussed the phenomenology of hoarding. It is not recognised as a condition under DSM 1V criteria however this is being reviewed. As a result Mental Health are not currently empowered regarding this issue. Dr Mogan clarified that Hoarding differs from OCD in that the objects are bound with the person's sense of identity. Co-morbidities can exist including dementia. The incidence of hoarding increases with age which further highlights the relevance to HACC providers.

Dr Mogan gave an overview of the motivation for compulsive hoarding. The condition is not yet fully understood however possible contributors from the research suggest gaps in attachment and identity. It is emerging that at some point in the development of relationships people are vulnerable to forming over attachments to 'things'. Things are perceived as a part of the person and identity is expressed in these objects. The objects are strongly linked with the persons self esteem. The research further suggests that for people with this disorder objects may sometimes be perceived as more stable and reliable than people.

Levels of insight differ between individuals with regard to whether this disorder is seen as a problem. [Clutter Image Rating Scale](#) provides a series of images that allows the person to see where they rate their situation. The person may lack insight into how severe the clutter is however this can develop over time.

Dr Mogan reinforced that treatment tends to be proposition over time rather than a quick fix situation. He suggests that quick fix clean ups tend to be quite devastating to the person. Reaction to the loss of items include; anger, anxiety, fear and a tendency to quickly refill the spaces. He acknowledged that health and sanitation issues are sometimes paramount however the person requires support to relinquish items and make sustainable behavioural changes.

A multi-disciplinary collaborative approach was encouraged. Dr Mogan also encouraged service providers to advocate for clients to access a mental health plan they can then access 6 – 12 individual and 6 – 12 group sessions of therapy. Participants can be bulk billed.

(cont...)

Dr Mogan also advocates an increase in literacy around the topic of squalor and suggests that it should be included in Certificate 1V qualifications in Community Services.

In 2011 the In Home Services workgroup will endeavour to strengthen links with relevant organisations to further assist our ability to respond to clients and support service providers who are grappling with these issues.

The review of the DSM 5 criteria is still open for comment. [DSM 5 Development Hoarding Disorder](#) Click the link if your organisation wishes to contribute to these discussions.

See the full outline of Squalor and Hoarding workshop below



NotesOutline of
COMPULSIVE HOARD

For Further information on the In Home Services Workgroup please contact Susan Sharp ph; 8440 6737 or email susan.sharp@dfc.sa.gov.au

Christmas Closure Dom Care SA Dementia Day Centre

The Dementia Day Centre program at Dom Care SA is closing down over Christmas / New Year. The final day for clients for this year is on Wednesday 22nd December 2010. Clients will resume attendance on Tuesday 11th January 2011. All clients / Carers have received a letter advising them of the closure dates.

Service providers are encouraged to continue to make referrals to the the program for 2011.

Please contact;

Sonya Battye

Dementia Day Centre Coordinator

Sonya.Battye@dfc.sa.gov.au

Meals on Wheels Christmas Closure

Meals on Wheels **will be closed between 24 December and 4th January**. RDNS have been contracted to take their phonecalls during this time.

Clients may be able to arrange to stock up on frozen meals but my understanding is that there is a cap of 7 days worth of food – check with local offices on what is available. Just a friendly reminder to ensure no-one goes hungry over Christmas!

Dementia Community Support Grants - Round 4

Please note that the Dementia Community Grants Round 4 were announced Thursday 9th December.

Grants up to \$50,000 are available with applications **due 10 Feb, 2011**. Please click the links below for further information.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-mb-mb076.htm>

<http://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/grantITA1921011>

Invitation to influence the direction of Aged Care Reform: Consultation Process

You are invited to have your say in the development of a new 'front end' for aged care including the aged component of Home and Community Care.

This initiative will assist older Australians, carers, and their families to more easily access information, assessment and links to aged care services.

This initiative is part of the National Health and Hospitals Network reform, agreed by the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers of states and territories on 20 April 2010, and are part of the broader Australian Government Health Reform process.¹

Commencing in November 2010, service providers, local governments, peak bodies, and the workforce will be asked to provide their thoughts and ideas about the proposed changes to the aged care system. Initially, these consultations will take place in capital cities and continue early next year in regional Australia.

As part of the consultation process, you are also invited to complete an [online survey](#) to help shape improvements in information, intake and assessment for aged care. This survey is available at www.yourhealth.gov.au and will continue through to Monday 31 January 2011, and is expected to take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

In early 2011, a range of focus groups will also be held, including sessions targeting care recipients and their carers. These consultations will provide the opportunity for participants to share their views, assist in system change, highlight the strengths of the current system and raise issues to consider. Participants wishing to understand the context for the development of a new 'front end' for aged care may wish to read the [discussion paper](#) on Improving Information, Intake and Assessment. The discussion paper is also intended to start conversations and generate views throughout the consultation process.

The reforms will support the delivery of Australia's aged care system now, and into the future.

Workgroups 2011

Just a reminder; there are no Western Linkages Workgroups or Steering Committee Meetings in Jan 2011. Workgroups will resume in February. Sue and Jen will be on annual leave during January. See our website for meeting dates www.westernlinkages.org.au