

STAFFING NOTIFICATION

Dear Colleagues, There have been some temporary changes to the Western Linkages staffing arrangements. Jennifer Fischer will be unavailable for an extended period. In the interim Susan Sharp will be filling the Western Linkages Project Officer role Monday to Thursday. Marianne Feber will be providing Administrative Support to the Project Tuesday to Thursday afternoons. All Workgroups and project activities will continue as usual and we look forward to working with you during the year

HACC 'Innovative Idea' Projects Funding Received for Cultivating People, Programs and Communities Project

The Cultivating People, Programs & Communities Project, auspiced by Helping Hand Aged Care has received funding as a HACC Innovative Project. Western Linkages Social Isolation Workgroup has been involved in driving the development of this project which aims to translate the Uni SA Alone in A Crowd (AIAC) research into practice. The Alone in a Crowd research revealed five interrelated dimensions of loneliness and made recommendations regarding how these may be addressed. The study has provided understandings of loneliness that will inform and support service providers assisting older Australians managing loneliness.

The Cultivating People, Programs & Communities Project will facilitate a partnership between Uni SA, Better Practice Project, Helping Hand and Western Linkages.

The project goals are;

- To reduce loneliness amongst older people by embedding the Alone in a Crowd (AIAC) research findings into Better Practice Project training and
- To demonstrate changes in practice and translation of the HACC service principles into practice.

A series of cross regional sessions will be conducted by Dr Mandy Stanley, Uni SA, on the AIAC research findings on the 5 dimensions of loneliness. Revision of the delivery and evaluation of Better Practice Project training module "Connecting Community & Importance of Family and Community Participation" will be undertaken. The revised training package will be trialled and marketed. Importantly this training is about shifts in culture and attitude as well as changes in practice. The project will also demonstrate the translation of the HACC service principles into practice through providing structured opportunities for change in practice in the Western Region.

The Social Isolation Workgroup will continue to be involved in the development of this project. The Western Linkages Social Isolation Workgroup will trial the revised package before it is made available. The Social Isolation workgroup meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month bringing together service providers who work with older people at risk of isolation and / or loneliness. Dates of the meetings are posted on the Western Linkages website www.westernlinkages.org.au under diary dates. Agendas and minutes are circulated via an email distribution list. For further information please contact Susan Sharp, Project Officer, Western Linkages 84406737 email: susan.sharp@dfc.sa.gov.au

June 2011

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10.00am – 12.00pm****Steering Committee
Planning Day****Access2HomeCare****Vulnerable Older
Adults Project****Aged Care Alternatives****Contact Us:****Project Officer:
Susan Sharp
(Mon - Thurs)
8440 6737****susan.sharp@dfc.sa.gov.au**

Western Adelaide Dementia Workgroup (WADPG)
Western Linkages Annual Forum
Dementia and Driving
Held 22 March 2011

The Western Linkages Regional Dementia Forum 2011 was organised by the Western Adelaide Dementia Planning Group, (WADPG). WADPG is a group of agencies providing Dementia Care services and support in the Western region. The aims of this group are to facilitate partnership, service reform and networking amongst Dementia service providers and to provide a platform for regional issues and opportunities for collaboration.

The theme chosen for the 2011 Dementia Forum was “Driving and Dementia”. Themes for Western Linkages forums are drawn from consultation with participating member organisations and endorsed by the Steering Committee. This forum topic was also influenced by the State Dementia Action Plan which articulates the need to address transport needs for the growing number of South Australians with Dementia.

In total 122 people from 41 agencies attended the forum, including 11 presenters. This number represents a new record for attendance at a Western Linkages forum. “Driving and Dementia” is a cross regional issue. It was decided this year to extend an invitation to service providers in all metropolitan areas. Staff from many agencies across the West attended however a broad representation of agencies from the Northern, Eastern and Southern regions also participated. This included State representatives. 10 of the agencies represented have not previously attended a Western Linkages Regional Forum. For the first time the 2011 forum also attracted participation from general practitioners and has strengthened the project’s links with the Adelaide Western Division of General Practice Network (AWDGPN).

Attendees reported an overall increase in their understanding of the issues relating to driving and dementia. A significant increase was recorded in peoples’ knowledge of the process of assessing fitness to drive, the steps to assist where there is a concern for client safety relating to their driving capacity, knowledge of the supports available and transport options for drivers relinquishing their licence.

The keynote speaker was Neurologist Dr. Karyn Boundy from TQEH Memory Unit who presented an overview of current research in Dementia and Driving. Dr Boundy has been involved in the working party to update the National Transport Commission “Austroads Guidelines”. The forum provided 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.

Jan Palmer from Alzheimer’s Australia SA (AASA) provided information on the brain changes associated with Dementia. Jackie Phillips, AASA Dementia Linkworker gave an overview of the supports available to people who are relinquishing their driver’s license due to Dementia. This included information on new funding available through Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre to assist Carers to refresh skills such as driving. Support can also be accessed to obtain guidance with utilizing public transport.

Western Linkages Consumer Representatives Mignon Grivell and Rosemary Woods presented a consumer perspective. This presentation utilized information gathered from people with dementia and their carers regarding the experience of relinquishing their driver’s license, providing forum participants with valuable insight.

Brad Williams from the SA Occupational Therapy Driver Interest Group gave an overview of the role of driver trained occupational therapy service and how OT’s can assist and support clients to adjust to changes in driving capacity.

Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) provided information on the assessment process for Drivers referred to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles under Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines and the format and guidelines of the practical driving assessment conducted. Information was also provided on the “Moving Right

Around the workgroups

Along” resource; a series of information sheets regarding obligations and opportunities for older drivers including information for those relinquishing their driver’s license.

Community Transport options provided through local governments in the West were showcased by Leanne Davis-King from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. The planned presentation from Disability, Ageing and Carers updating the development of the Community Passenger Networks will now be available on Mon 11 July , 10.00am – 12.00pm Port Adelaide Enfield Town Hall (see flyer in this issue)

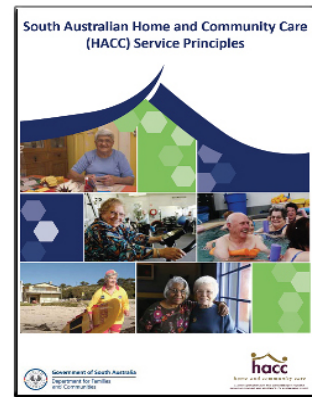
Information was gathered from forum participants regarding their opinions on whether there are adequate existing information resources on the topic of Driving and Dementia and whether there are additional resources they would like to have developed. This information has been shared with the Southern Services Reform Group with a view to reviewing and influencing further direction for resources available to clients and Carers cross regionally.

Pamphlets and displays were provided by Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre, Helping Hand Aged Care, Italian Benevolent Foundation, Dom Care, Alzheimer’s Association SA, Uniting Care Wesley, Novartis and Western Linkages. The AASA Memory Van was also present to provide additional information resources to service providers.

Special thanks are extended to the members of the WADPG organizing group for their assistance in the planning and running of the event on the day. Thanks are also extended to the Western Linkages Consumer Representatives and also to Novartis Pharmaceuticals for their sponsorship which enabled to provide Lunch and a Networking opportunity.

HACC Service Principles

The South Australian HACC Service Principles were launched in October 2010. The HACC Service Principles were developed by the HACC Reform Reference Group and are consistent with the current Commonwealth and State Government policy directions, building on the strong foundation provided by the Better Practice Project and compliment and enhance the Community Care Common Standards. These six principles have been developed to



help agencies, staff and volunteers to understand the underlying values framework of HACC services in South Australia and to reflect upon how these values affect every interaction with frail older people, people with a disability and their carers.

“The proposed HACC service principles are not an end in themselves. They constitute the first step in a comprehensive reform process which will ensure that HACC programs and services in South Australia maximise opportunities for consumer choice and control, capacity building and community engagement. In this regard, the South Australian reforms mirror similar processes in Western Australia, Victoria and more recently New South Wales. In the next phase of the project, the service principles will be linked to a set of professional practices and indicators that will further inform the delivery of HACC services. Service providers will be supported and encouraged to adopt these practices through an implementation framework and training and professional development for paid staff and volunteers. Ultimately, the adoption of service principles and practices will be a factor in determining HACC funding outcomes in South Australia.” (South Australian Home and Community Care HACC Service Principles 2010)

For a copy of the HACC Service Principles please visit our website www.westernlinkages.org.au on the “Noticeboard” section

Statewide Community Transport

*Helen Beavan
Principal Project Officer Transport
Disability, Ageing and Carers*

Transport has been identified as a key need for the HACC target group. A phased approach is being considered for the development of a cohesive state-wide community transport model.

This with the government's commitment to supporting active ageing by helping older South Australians with mobility concerns to get out and about.

Come and hear about the work being undertaken to improve and expand Community Passenger Networks (CPN's).

New policies and guidelines are being developed. Future funding submissions will also be reviewed to ensure they demonstrate how the proposed service will, where possible link into the local CPN.

Come and take part in this discussion to influence the direction of community transport.

This is a **free** event and is open to all service providers with an interest in the HACC target group.

Monday 11 July 2011
10.00am—12.00pm
Port Adelaide Enfield Council
Town Hall
34 Nile St, Port Adelaide

*to register please visit our website
www.westernlinkages.org.au and follow the link
Please RSVP by Wed 6th July 2011.*

For further information please contact Susan Sharp , Project Officer, Western Linkages
email: susan.sharp@dfc.sa.gov.au ph: 8440 6737



A2HC attending Western Linkages Project Tuesday 21 June - Steering Committee Meeting

As you are aware the Commonwealth has approved the progression of Access2HomeCare to the next phase. The roll out across the metropolitan region is scheduled to occur later this year. There will be information sessions across the regions to discuss the next steps. Nancy Penna - Director Intake, Assessment & Resource Allocation, Barbara Rudge - Operational Change Manager Access2HomeCare and Lyndal Gerrard - Project Leader Access2HomeCare will be attending the **Western Linkages Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 June, 3.00pm – 5.00pm** Dom Care Woodville, Seminar Room, 21a Belmore Tce, Woodville Park to speak about the next stages of the project. Steering Committee meetings are open to all service providers to attend.

Further information sessions have been arranged by the Eastern Regional Collaboration Project in partnership with the Southern Services Reform Group

Tuesday 12 July 2011

9:30 -10:30am

City of Marion

Chambers, 245 Sturt Road, Sturt

[bookings essential](#)

For further information please email;

bevban@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

Wednesday 20 July 2011

1:00 - 2:00pm

City of Prospect

Irish Harp Room, 128 Prospect Road, Prospect

[bookings essential](#)

For further information please email; Lui DiVenuto

Lui.DiVenuto@dfc.sa.gov.au

A Framework for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults

Elly Nitschke, Attorney Generals Dept

WLP July 26 Steering Committee Meeting

DAC has committed funds to the Office of the Public Advocate to conduct research examining how South Australia can best enable adults to be safe from abuse or harm. Overseas models are being investigated to look at the viability of replicating some elements in SA. Overseas models such as in the UK include the establishment of formal local protocols between health, disability providers, other community services and law enforcement about how instances of alleged abuse and neglect of adults are responded to and who acts as the lead agency in each situation. A 24-hour adult protection phone-in line also operates. The aim of the SA research will be to strengthen and protect the rights, individual freedoms and dignity of older South Australians, increasing independence and promoting citizenship. Elly Nitschke will attend the WLP Steering Committee Meeting on July 26, 3 – 5pm Dom Care Woodville, Seminar Rm, 21a Belmore Tce, Woodville Park to speak about the project.

Western Linkages Steering Committee Planning Day held 24 May 2011

A very successful Annual Steering Committee Planning Session was held on 24 May with many new ideas generated to guide the project over the coming 12 months. Special thanks to our SC Chairperson Penny Hickman and the workgroup chairs for all their assistance with this event.

The group endorsed the current workgroup themes of Respite, In Home Services, Dementia and Social Isolation. The Acute Sector Interface and the HACC/ CACP, EACH Interface will remain as ongoing agenda items for SC.

A new group The Consumer Engagement Task Group was formed. It is envisaged this group will operate for 12 months with involvement from both Consumers and Service Providers.

The first meeting will be held on Thursday 16 June 1.30 – 3.00pm Dom Care Woodville, Seminar Room, 21a Belmore Tce, Woodville Park. Contact susan.sharp@dfc.sa.gov.au

Free help to navigate and connect to information and support about aged care



A free aged care information centre which assists people in finding out how the aged care system works, and how to go about finding what care and support is available has recently opened in Highgate.

Agedcare Alternatives aims primarily to assist those people who find existing aged care information overwhelming and consequently require a more personalised face to face customer service approach.

Agedcare Alternatives is staffed primarily by volunteer 'Options Guides', who provide face-to-face information and support to those wishing to navigate the aged care system.

Options Guides help enquirers to find relevant information, understand their options or pathways and, if required can also assist in contacting programs and services as the next step in their search.

Anyone can call in and speak with an Options Guide or phone for information and a strategy to find their way through the plethora of information.

Agedcare Alternatives is also available to provide presentations about its services to aged care staff, health professionals and community groups/organisations.

For more information about Agedcare Alternatives, telephone (08) 8271 3888 or email info@agedcarealternatives.net.au . It is located at 1/445 Fullarton Road, Highgate and open during business hours.