



# Public Sector Residential Aged Care Bulletin

This bulletin provides information on recent events in the Public Sector Residential Aged Care sector. Previous editions are available at:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare/publications/newsletters/index.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare/publications/newsletters/index.htm)

## **Investing in the future of Frail Elderly Victorians**

Following years of planning, capital investment, and hard work by many people, a number of Public Sector Residential Aged Care services recently been relocated to new facilities.

### **Yarrowonga District Health Service - Karana**

The new \$10.8 million Yarrowonga District Health Service (YDHS) Residential Aged Care service was officially opened on 10 October. The new service is called Karana, from the Aboriginal language meaning "pretty place by the water".

The redevelopment project has included the construction of a new 30 bed residential high care facility, acute wards, renal dialysis area, birthing suite, a new patient holding suite and installation of a new backup power generator for all facilities on the YDHS Yarrowonga site.

### **Barwon Health - Wallace Lodge**

The Wallace Lodge at Barwon Health's McKellar Centre was formally opened on Wednesday 30 August 2006. At a cost of \$19.81 million, the 108 bed high care service it is part of a funding commitment of \$50 million for a Stage Two works at Barwon Health, McKellar Centre.

Stage Two includes the redevelopment of 198 aged residential high care beds, refurbishment of the Community Rehabilitation Centre (CRC), support services and associated infrastructure and a production kitchen for all Barwon Health.

This new service has been developed to provide contemporary single or two bedroom accommodation (all with dedicated or shared ensuites) for high care residents who were previously accommodated in a dated and

inappropriate ward like environment that dated back to the 1950s.

### **Seymour District Memorial Hospital - Barrabill House**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of September saw the opening of new 30 bed residential aged care service Barrabill House in Seymour. The redeveloped facility is a welcome change for residents with outdoor courtyards and community activity rooms among the features in the new facility.

The day also included the opening of a new \$2 million Ambulatory Care which provides interdisciplinary rehabilitation services for all ages.



***Pictured:** One of the rooms at new Barrabill House*

### **Colac Area Health - Corangamarah**

The 75-bed Corangamarah residential aged care facility was opened on Wednesday 30 August. Previously, high care residential services were provided at two sites on the Colac Hospital Campus, namely the Otway Pioneer and Polwarth Houses, which are replaced by the new facility.

The name of the service is Corangamarah, which is from Mount Corangamarah, or 'The Hill', as it is more commonly known locally. It is a prominent landmark over the Colac District. Formed to Colac's west, it separates Lake Colac from the vastness of Lake Corangamite.

The 75 beds are divided into three clusters, North, South and West. North and South are both 30 bed clusters and the West cluster is the Dementia Specific facility with 15 single rooms. In accordance with guidelines, there are 14 shared rooms and 47 single rooms.



**Pictured:** Corangamarah Aged Care Dining and Lounge area.

## Sod Turning of New Aged Care Facility

The first sod was turned at a ceremony for the new 62-bed residential aged care facility in College St Wangaratta.

Various sites were considered before a 5-acre site at the corner of College St and Phillipson St in Wangaratta was selected. The site has been used as farmland and by TAFE for agriculture training. As a result, the new facility will have the benefit of a rural outlook.

The building project is anticipated to take 12 months from early November with a budget of \$11 million.

## Investment in Aged Care helps take the pressure off

Three thousand Victorian men and women in public sector residential aged care facilities will be resting easier because of the rollout of an upgrade of mattresses. Maintaining skin integrity is a key care component of running effective residential aged-care services and pressure reduction mattresses help us deliver high-standard services to clients.

Pressure reduction mattresses contour around the body relieving pressure. Pressure ulcers are associated with pain, reduced mobility, increased risk of complications and increased health care costs.

The \$1.07 million investment follows an investment of \$7.4 million over the past four years for

electronic beds and lifting equipment and \$2 million for similar mattresses in hospitals.

## State Nursing Excellence Awards 2006

The nominees in the 2006 State Nursing Excellence Awards gathered in Melbourne on 19th October with their guests, to celebrate their achievements.

The winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual State Nursing Excellence Awards of the four major categories were:

- **Sue Morrissey** (Division 1, Registered Nurse) from the Western District Health Service in the *Outstanding Clinical Nursing Leadership* category;
- **Zoë Caspar and Lisa Della Gatta** (Division 2 Registered Nurses) from Peninsula Health in the *Improving The Patient/Client Experience Through Innovative Nursing Practices* category;
- **Danielle Bolster** (Division 1, Registered Nurse) from The Alfred hospital in the category *Making A Difference To The Working Lives Of Nurses*, and
- **Kirsten James** (Division 1, Registered Nurse) from Mt Alexander Hospital in the category *Improving Outcomes for Consumers with Mental Health Problems*.



**2006 State Nursing Excellence Award Winners from L - R:** Susan Morrissey, Kirsten James, Minister Pike, Danielle Bolster, Zoë Caspar and Lisa Della Gatta.

In addition, this year five Merit Awards were announced, in recognition of the outstanding calibre of the nominees. The recipients of the Merit Awards will each receive \$2,000 as a contribution towards their professional development. The Merit awards were awarded to:

- **Geraldine Fernandes**, Manager, Edward Street Nursing Home
- **Helen Marsham**, Nurse Unit Manager at Peter James Centre
- **Jane Caldwell**, Maternal & Child Health Nurse, Enhanced Home Visiting, City of Wodonga
- **Denise Green**, Clinical Nurse Educator, Emergency Department, Western Health, and
- **Jennifer Dew**, CAMHS Clinician, Mildura Base Hospital



**2006 Merit Winners L – R:** Geraldine Fernandes, Helen Marsham, Jane Caldwell and Denise Green – (absent Jennifer Dew)

Finally, the Jen Rusden Memorial Prize was awarded this year to Janice Deppeler, from Barwon Health's Aged Psychiatric Services. The Jen Rusden Memorial award is a DHS sponsored award in memory of Mrs Rusden, a previous recipient of a Nurse Care Award for her work with women living with breast cancer. Jen Rusden established the Daffodil Breast Cancer Support Group and tragically died of breast cancer in 1998.

### Count us in!

The Victorian Government recently announced funding for a project to promote social inclusion for people living in residential aged care. The action phase of the project will focus on public sector residential aged care and will be conducted over a 6 month period from February 2007.

A wide variety of submissions have been received by DHS from organisations with a demonstrated commitment to promoting quality of life for senior Victorians. These submissions are currently being considered. Available funding will be allocated to those submissions demonstrating strong potential to support people living in residential aged care to develop, maintain and improve their community networks and involvement.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Elaine Pulleine on 03 9096 8327 or [elaine.pulleine@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:elaine.pulleine@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### Beyond Compliance

'Beyond Compliance' is an exciting new strategy within the Aged Care Branch that supports and builds the capacity of services to continue to deliver high quality care to the almost 200 Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services across Victoria. It brings together a range of safety and quality initiatives that aspire to provide quality care beyond an accreditation framework, as the name implies.

'Beyond Compliance' increases the focus on safety and quality in Public Sector Residential Aged Care services by seeking opportunities to build on the active commitment and achievements of services.

A comprehensive range of initiatives are targeted towards:

- risk management and performance improvement
- education and training
- development of tools and resources and
- provision of specialist advice and support.

These initiatives systematically increase the focus on safety and quality for residents at the broad, sector-wide level in a sustainable way.

The strategy aligns with the "Public Sector Residential Aged Care Policy" (2004), which commits to strengthening the service system and ensuring older people receive appropriate care.

As the initiatives of 'Beyond Compliance' are rolled-out, further information will be provided. If you would like more information about 'Beyond Compliance' or about the PSRACS sector in general, please visit our website:

[www.dhs.vic.gov.au/rrhacs/agedbranch.html](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/rrhacs/agedbranch.html)

Alternatively, you can telephone the 'Beyond Compliance' Project Team in the Aged Care Branch at DHS, Melbourne on 9096 1038 or 9096 8012

### Residential Aged Care Coronial Communiqué

Increased awareness of safety issues in the care of older people is the feature of a new publication, the Residential Aged Care Coronial Communiqué. This specialised publication highlights selected cases reported to the State Coroner. It is published quarterly and subscription is free of charge. You can subscribe by emailing a request to [racc@vifm.org](mailto:racc@vifm.org) and a copy of the first edition is at [www.vifm.org/research\\_cls.html](http://www.vifm.org/research_cls.html).

### Contributions

We are keen to hear your feedback on this bulletin and to publish your stories and contributions in future editions. These can be sent to:

[marie.tirant@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:marie.tirant@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### Coming Events/Key Dates

**31 December 2006:** \$1,000 per Resident Payment. The Department of Health and Ageing has informed the ACC that where money has not been spent, it will be acceptable to DoHA for providers to have committed the funds to a project and have appropriate contracts in place to demonstrate this commitment.

**ACCV** is providing Prudential Compliance Training in the metropolitan and various regional locations over the next week and a half - places are still available.

Further information regarding this training can be obtained by contacting Jodie on (03) 9805 9400 or [jodiew@accv.com.au](mailto:jodiew@accv.com.au).