

## Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Paediatric Clinical Network. In each issue we hope to provide updates on the work of the network as well as items of interest to paediatric health services and consumers. This edition includes a story from a regional paediatric ward and how it is developing a more child friendly environment and child centred care. Also there are stories about the Paediatric Orthopaedic Network, the launch of the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service *Long Term Follow-up Program* and an article on healthy eating for children.

## Introducing the Paediatric Clinical Leads



*Mr Chris Kimber and  
Assoc Prof Jill Sewell*

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed two people to share the role of Paediatric Clinical Lead. They are Associate Professor Jill Sewell from the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and Mr Chris Kimber from Southern Health. We are fortunate to have Jill and Chris. They both have long histories and experience in paediatrics.

Jill Sewell is currently Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the Centre for Community Child Health at the RCH and in the past has been President of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) amongst many other roles. Chris Kimber is a paediatric surgeon specialising in Urology and is currently Head of Paediatric Surgery at Monash Medical Centre and Head of Paediatric Urology at Southern Health. Chris has led innovative programs in outpatient reform and been involved in many other patient-centred initiatives. Both have been leaders in forging change in paediatric health service delivery in Victoria and so we very warmly welcome them both.

The next step in setting up the network will be to draw together the Paediatric Leadership Group. Expressions of Interest have been circulated to all Victorian Health Services and many consumer organisations and groups. We hope to garner a broadly representative group that can reflect the needs of the many and various stakeholders. The leadership group will meet bi-monthly and steer the network as it tackles the issues facing paediatrics in Victoria.

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## Strategic Framework for Paediatric Health Services in Victoria

Following stakeholder forums in February the discussion paper *Strategic Framework for Paediatric Health Services in Victoria* was updated to reflect and include stakeholder feedback and suggestions.

The final copy is available to download at [www.health.vic.gov.au/clinicalnetworks/paediatric](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/clinicalnetworks/paediatric)  
Printed copies have been distributed to all health services.

## Vulnerable Children in Acute Health project

The role of health practitioners in the care and protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect is often not clearly understood. Health practitioners are frequently the first point of contact for vulnerable families and it is vital that practitioners have the confidence to respond appropriately and work together with child protection and family support services to meet the needs of these children.

A new interactive on line education resource is now available. The education resource has been developed to assist health practitioners in understanding their role and responsibility to vulnerable children. This resource includes topics such as:

- identifying vulnerable children
- diminished parental capacity
- recording information in the patient file
- mandatory reporting requirements
- sharing information
- role of child protection and Child FIRST.

The resource "*Health Professionals Working Together to Keep Children Safe*" is an excellent, accessible education tool that should form part of the ongoing education and training for all health practitioners who care for vulnerable children or their parents. The resource is available at [www.vfpms.org.au](http://www.vfpms.org.au).



For more information about the Vulnerable Children in Acute Health Project please contact Vicki Horrigan on 9096 1333 or by email at [vicki.horrigan@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicki.horrigan@dhs.vic.gov.au)

## Bendigo Base Hospital Paediatric Ward news

Bendigo Health introduced the concept of the 'Sanctuary for Kids' project close to two years ago with the aim of creating a child friendly environment throughout Bendigo Health. The first stage of the project – the refurbishment of the Child and Adolescent unit - was carried out over the Christmas period.

This included updating furniture, installing waiting and play rooms for children, purchasing new medical equipment and providing the nursing staff with training to use this new technology.

Some improvements to the Child and Adolescent unit include:

- The unit itself is brighter and less cluttered, more storage facilities and a more modern appearance.
- Improved infection control particularly in the babies' area where there were concerns about cross infection and noise control.

- Improved privacy and security for patients. The unit is now locked 24hours and CCTV is used as security above each bed and used to screen visitors on arrival.
- Improved parents retreat, en-suite and more comfortable beds and chairs for overnight stays with their children.
- Built-in all weather play room and play equipment.
- Better IT resources for staff.
- A private meeting room for children, families, doctors and staff.

Future planned improvements at Bendigo Health include the paediatric outpatient clinics, Emergency Department and the Special Care Baby Unit.

Should any other paediatric wards be planning changes, updating or refurbishing their facilities, a useful guide is the [Royal Australasian College of Physicians Standards for the care of children and adolescents in health services](#) which was published in December 2008.

### Paediatric Orthopaedic Network

The Paediatric Orthopaedic Network was established in 2007 by the department in response to the *Framework for paediatric orthopaedics* in 2006. The network has been working towards development of a sustainable system of paediatric orthopaedic services designed to meet increasing service demand and workforce supply issues.

In May 2009 the *Paediatric orthopaedics: recent achievements and future directions* document was published, and is available at: [www.health.vic.gov.au/surgery](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/surgery).

This document reviews progress in implementing key recommendations of the 2006 Framework and outlines plans for further work over the next two years.

The future directions identified in the document will support:

- ongoing development of an integrated approach to service delivery
- a quality assurance framework including monitoring of service quality
- outcomes and strategies to strengthen engagement of families and ongoing professional development of the paediatric orthopaedic workforce.

Key projects recently funded include:

- a general practice online resource and referral project
- three educational seminars: one each to be hosted by The Royal Children's Hospital, Southern Health and Barwon Health
- four scholarships for the 2009 Specialist Certificate Course in Advanced Paediatric Orthopaedic Physiotherapy.

Further projects and initiatives in line with the future directions document will be developed during 2009.

### Launch of the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service Long Term Follow-up Program

The Minister for Health, the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, officially launched the *Long term follow up program* on 22 July 2009 at the Children's Cancer Centre (RCH).

Long term follow up (LTF) for children who have received treatment for cancer was recognised as an important issue in *Victoria's Cancer Action Plan 2008-2011*.

This program has been developed as part of the Victorian Government's commitment to minimise the impact of cancer treatment on the quality of life, physical and emotional wellbeing of children who have been diagnosed with cancer. The program will be accessible to all survivors of childhood cancer treated at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) or Monash Medical Centre (MMC) and will provide each individual with a tailored approach to meet their ongoing needs, in the environment best suited to the level of care required.

This initiative is being led by the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service which is a partnership between the RCH, Southern Health (MMC- Clayton) and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.



*Health Minister Daniel Andrews at the launch of the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service Long Term Follow-up Program*

For further information regarding the LTF program, please contact the LTF team on 9322 5181 or by emailing on [lft.program@rch.org.au](mailto:lft.program@rch.org.au)

## Healthy Eating for children

We are all aware of the need for children to have a healthy diet and this becomes even more important for paediatric patients. Changes in diet and lifestyle can have very positive effects for ill children and also those who are overweight or obese and at risk of serious illness such as diabetes.

The Victorian Government's *Go for your Life* program provides some useful information on diet and exercise for all age groups and includes a fun interactive Kids Program, [www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au](http://www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au)

## Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please phone (03) 9096 1327 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [clinicalnetworks@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:clinicalnetworks@dhs.vic.gov.au)

This document is also available in PDF format on the internet at [www.health.vic.gov.au/clinicalnetworks](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/clinicalnetworks)

## Useful links

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians  
[www.racp.edu.au](http://www.racp.edu.au)

Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth  
[www.aracy.org.au](http://www.aracy.org.au)

Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health  
[www.rcpch.ac.uk](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk)

American Academy of Pediatrics  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Paediatric Society New Zealand  
[www.paediatrics.org.nz](http://www.paediatrics.org.nz)

## Future updates

This is the first in a series of information updates which we intend to produce on a quarterly basis. If you have any suggestions or would like to include an article, please contact us via the contact information below.

The department is currently establishing an e-mailing list of clinicians and other stakeholders interested in receiving information on the Paediatric Clinical Network activities. If you wish to be included on this e-mailing list please forward your details to [clinicalnetworks@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:clinicalnetworks@dhs.vic.gov.au) or advise the Paediatric Program Manager, Sue Morgan on 9096 5227 or via email [sue.c.morgan@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sue.c.morgan@dhs.vic.gov.au)