

ALBURY WODONGA HEALTH INTEGRATION UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES

This fortnight's newsletter provides a progress report on transition activities, details on the upcoming staff forums, a report on the first Joint Medical Consultative Council meeting, and an introduction to the Dialysis Unit.

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Transition update

Work is progressing well to meet a 1 July 2009 operational date:

- Negotiations on the intergovernmental agreement between Victoria and NSW are being finalised. The agreement outlines the legal, financial and industrial relations frameworks within which AWH will operate.
- Appointment of the first Board of directors of Albury Wodonga Health is progressing well.
- Recruitment of a CEO from a highly competitive field is nearing completion.
- Service level agreements for a range of services that will continue to be provided by GSAHS and NSW Health to the Albury Campus of Albury Wodonga Health are being drafted. These include services such as HR, payroll, procurement and asset management.
- The Albury Wodonga Health website at www.awh.org.au will go live on 29 June 2009. Make sure you have a look.

Staff forums

In the immediate future you can hear more about preparations for integration, what to expect after 1 July, and have your questions answered at a number of staff forums. All staff are invited to attend any of the Forums on either site. Forum details are as follows:

Date:	Time:	Location:
18 June	1430-1530	ABH conference room
19 June	0730-0830	WRHS Ante-Natal Clinic at the Obstetrics Unit (off Wilson St)
24 June	0730-0830	ABH conference room
24 June	1430-1530	WRHS, Kruss Room 1

First Joint Medical Consultative Council (JMCC) Meeting

The first JMCC meeting was held on 1 June. It was chaired by Drs. Glen Davies and Kevin Holwell on behalf of ABH and WRHS. The meeting was well attended by Visiting Medical Practitioners.

The meeting discussed the benefits of having a single forum for addressing medical workforce issues including:

- AWH-wide committees to consider items such as undergraduate and postgraduate training;
- morbidity and mortality reviews;
- credentialing; and
- scope of practice.

Dialysis Unit



A member of the Dialysis team's nursing staff and a current client

The Wodonga Regional Health Service Dialysis Unit was established in 1989 under the direction and support of Professor Gavin Becker of the (then) Royal Melbourne Hospital. The unit was set up to provide haemodialysis treatment to clients in the Albury-Wodonga region. This was done using two chairs and a monthly outpatient clinic.

Prior to the introduction of the Victorian case-mix funding system, the Unit was jointly funded by DHS for the operational costs and by NSW Health for upkeep and repairs and maintenance.

The Unit has had three physical locations over the last sixteen years – as part of a medical ward, then a stand-alone house, and now back on site at WRHS. In this period it has grown from two to six chairs.

The Unit is currently located in the Day Procedure Unit, operates as a satellite unit of Melbourne Health and is managed by NUM Dianne Wiscks. The Dialysis Unit operates with the support of Albury Wodonga based nephrologist Dr R Auwardt and is staffed by experienced Registered Nurses who manage each haemodialysis session. Allied Health Staff are also involved in patient care and may include a Dietician, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, and Physiotherapist. A Chaplaincy volunteer visits weekly.

The Unit has the capacity to treat 24 patients and operates six days a week. It can treat six patients a shift and operates two shifts a day. Dialysis times vary between four and five hours per treatment every second day. Currently patient ages range from 48 – 80 years.

As a regional centre, many of our patients travel significant distances every second day to access treatment, with 5 currently travelling more than 30 kilometers.

A new Link Nurse position has been created within the community this year to provide support to people having haemodialysis. The position is community focused and meets an important need for in-home support. It is anticipated that funding will be available in 2009/2010 to continue this position.

For 20 years this service has catered for the needs of the Albury Wodonga region, and will continue to provide outstanding care to the community as part of Albury Wodonga Health.

Transition manager contact details

Leigh McJames is the AWH transition manager. He welcomes any opportunity to hear your views and ideas for the future, and answer your questions. He can be contacted by email: leigh.mcjames@dhs.vic.gov.au or phone 02 6055 7773.

Further information

Visit: www.health.vic.gov.au/awh or email: awh@dhs.vic.gov.au