

## ALBURY WODONGA HEALTH INTEGRATION UPDATE

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES

This fortnight's newsletter focuses on the appointment of AWH Transition Manager Mr Leigh McJames, AWH financial arrangements, and the ABH Critical Care Unit.

Ms Heather Gray  
Chief Executive  
Greater Southern Area Health Service

Mr Ray Sweeney  
Chief Executive Officer  
Wodonga Regional Health Service

IN THIS EDITION

Transition Manager  
Appointed

AWH Financial  
Arrangements

Albury Base  
Hospital Critical  
Care Unit

### Transition Manager Appointed



A Transition Manager, Leigh McJames, was appointed on 11 May to ensure that the development of AWH continues smoothly. Located in Albury Wodonga, Leigh will initially manage a range of integration tasks on behalf of the Project Director. This will include providing advice to management at the two sites on strategies to effectively transition to AWH on 1 July. From 1 July he will support the Chair, Board and CEO in the ongoing transition.

Leigh has extensive management experience in the defence and health sectors. Most recently he was a Deputy General Manager of the National Blood Authority

in Canberra. Change management has been a significant element throughout Leigh's career.

When asked about his priorities in his new job, Leigh said, "My first, overarching priority is to ensure all services continue, without interruption and at the same high levels of quality on and after 1 July. Communicating what 1 July means and does not mean is a key element in achieving this outcome.

"The formal creation of Albury Wodonga Health from Albury Base Hospital and Wodonga Regional Health Service is a significant and exciting step, but for the vast majority of staff on both sites there will be no immediate impact. Most staff will undertake the same responsibilities in the same manner as they did on 30 June. The changes that will occur immediately will largely affect senior management, and will be comprehensively communicated to make sure that they are well understood."

Leigh will visit both hospitals regularly over coming weeks. During these visits he will speak to as many staff as possible. He welcomes any opportunity to hear your views and ideas for the future, and answer your questions. His contact details are: [leigh.mcjames@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:leigh.mcjames@dhs.vic.gov.au) or 02 6055 7773.

### The Momentum Grows: New AWH Finance Organisation Planned

Ensuring the sound financial management of Albury Wodonga Health from 1 July 2009 is a major priority. Recruitment of a Chief Financial Officer and additional finance staff has commenced to provide the necessary expertise in this area, with advertising of these new positions planned for the coming weeks.

### Albury Base Hospital – Critical Care Unit

The Intensive Care Unit at Albury Base Hospital is a Level 4-5 intensive care unit according to Australian guidelines with 5 funded ventilated beds. Care is delivered according to the model of the Australian and New Zealand Critical Care Society.

The unit provides care to intensive care, high dependency and coronary care patients. It co-ordinates the management of 4 telemetry beds located on the medical ward. The unit also provides specialist medical support on a needs basis to the WRHS and Albury Wodonga Private Hospital high dependency units.

The unit provides ventilated beds for the Albury Wodonga area and referrals from outlying smaller hospitals in both NSW and Victoria. The number of patients within the unit at any given time depends on patient acuity and number of ventilated patients. Patients with a wide range of clinical requirements are managed within the unit. Specialties such as burns, neurosurgical and cardiothoracic are transferred to tertiary centres according to clinical needs.

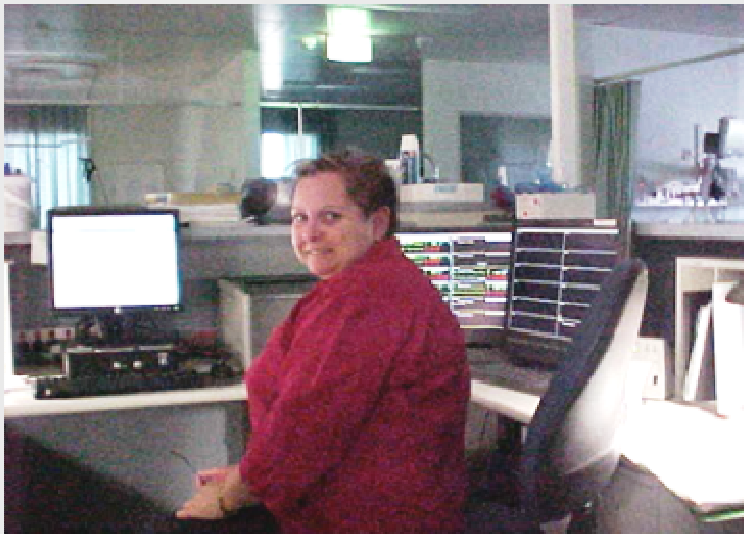
High dependency and intensive care patients are managed by the intensivist covering the unit and coronary care patients are managed by the allocated medical team for each patient. The unit is also actively supported by the

anaesthetic team.

There is a rostered specialist intensivist on-site from 0800 hours to 2000 hours 7 days a week, and on-call cover from 2000 hours to 0800 hours 7 days a week. The unit is also supported by a senior registrar each day from 2000hrs to 0800hrs. Currently planning is in place to increase the registrar cover to 24 hours each day. It is anticipated that full registrar cover will be in place from August 2009. The strong base of trained nursing and medical staff are supported daily by a full time clinical nurse educator, 0.5 ward clerk and 0.2 data clerk.

The unit has strong links for cardiac referral to St Vincent's public and private hospital in Melbourne and to a lesser degree Royal Melbourne public and private hospitals. Adult Retrieval Victoria provides a service for adult patients requiring transfer to tertiary units with hospital destination co-ordinated according to bed availability. Paediatric services are supported by the PETS/NETS service for patients under 16 years of age. The main referral hospital is the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne.

On a local level the unit works closely with the allied health staff to provide a team approach to management of complex patients. There is a close liaison with the ECG technician, respiratory nurse consultant, cardiac rehabilitation team and clinical nurse consultant infection control/stomal therapy to ensure best patient outcomes.



Helen McKee, Nurse Unit Manager of ICU

### Further information

Visit: [www.health.vic.gov.au/awh](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/awh) or email: [awh@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:awh@dhs.vic.gov.au)