

Winter 2009

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\*\*\*\* **JUST RELEASED** \*\*\*\*

## SUPPORTIVE CARE DIRECTORY

### Services for people affected by cancer

NEMICS is pleased to announce the release of **Supportive Care - services for people affected by cancer**. This directory is a great resource for all people who interact with patients, families and carers affected by cancer. The directory provides a quick and simple way to look up supportive care services that are available to patients in the north eastern metropolitan region.

The provision of supportive care provides worthwhile benefits. Supportive care services help with some of the physical, social, psychological, spiritual and informational needs that can arise following a cancer diagnosis. The directory will help clinicians locate appropriate services, improve the range of services offered and assist with offering services in a timely manner. Pages can be photocopied and given to patients or staff to assist with arranging services.

Services are grouped into the following categories:

- Aids and Equipment
- Allied Health
- Body Image
- Complementary Therapies
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Financial / Legal
- Home Support
- Information and Education
- Medical
- Multicultural Services
- Nursing
- Personal Support
- Relaxation and Exercise
- Transport and Accommodation.



**The purpose of NEMICS is to facilitate access to best practice cancer care for our population, to achieve better outcomes for all patients.**

The directory was developed in response to requests from people affected by cancer, and by clinicians who said it was difficult to find supportive care services outside the hospital. NEMICS worked with government, hospital, community and individual providers to identify the range of supportive care services available in the area. The focus is on those services for cancer patients available within the north-eastern metropolitan region of Melbourne, however many of the services are available across the state.

Copies of the books have been widely distributed to clinicians and services across NEMICS.

If you require a copy please email your contact details to: [contactus@nemics.org.au](mailto:contactus@nemics.org.au)

### Upcoming Events:

<b>Annual Forum</b>	<b>16 June 2009</b>
<b>Pathways Workshop</b>	<b>17 June 2009</b>
<b>ICS Supportive Care Conference</b>	<b>19 Oct 2009</b>

## What is supportive care?

Supportive care is an 'umbrella' term for a range of generalist and specialist services required to support people with cancer and their families including:

- physical needs – pain, fatigue, nausea
- psychological needs – anxiety, distress
- social needs – practical supports, carer needs
- information needs – relating to diagnosis, prognosis, types of treatment
- spiritual needs.

## NEMICS Supportive Care Grants Program

Grants have been offered to Austin Health, Eastern Health, Mercy Hospital for Women & Northern Health to implement routine supportive care screening and management of identified needs. Each health service has submitted a proposal to meet the program objectives. A project steering committee comprising representatives of each of the health services, an expert in supportive care and a consumer has reviewed the proposals and provided feedback. It is anticipated that projects will start at health services from July 2009.

### Objectives of supportive care grant program

1. Facilitate the establishment of a model for supportive care screening and identification of needs in the routine management of people affected by cancer across the north-east.
2. Build capacity within organisations to identify and respond to the needs of people affected by cancer. This may include the provision of education and training to staff as well as a review of existing mechanisms for identifying and responding to supportive care needs.
3. Identify referral pathways for supportive care services in the hospitals and the community so that those people with needs are responded to in an appropriate and timely fashion.



## NEMICS Professional Development Grant Recipients

NEMICS has pleasure in announcing the NEMICS Round 2 (May 2009) grant recipients:

Catherine Lawford	MATLAB Fundamentals and Programming Techniques course	Austin
Maureen Rolfo	American Society of Therapeutic Radiobiology and Oncology	Austin
Nigel Anderson	Australasian CMS Users Meeting NZ	Austin
Olympia Vitale	Diploma of Management course,	Austin
Dimitra Niteros	Multimodality Detection/Diagnosis of Breast Diseases Conf.	Eastern
Josephine Foo	Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners course	Eastern
Lynda Hardy	National Prostate Cancer Symposium	Eastern
Maria Stirling	Advanced Lymphoedema Management Course	Eastern
Pamela McMahon	National Prostate Cancer Symposium	Eastern
Paul Ruljancich	European Multidisciplinary Meeting on Urological Cancers	Eastern
Warwick Burnham	National Prostate Cancer Symposium	Eastern
Judith Purbrick	International Society of Lymphology conference	Mercy
Penelope Sanderson	Flinders University Lymphoedema Clinic training course	Mercy
Nina Hus	Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia seminar	Northern
Vinod Chellaram	Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia seminar	Northern
Robyn Smith	Development of learning plan for delivery of cancer services	Northern
Steve Meacher	Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing Practice	Northern

Professional development and education grants are offered by NEMICS to build capacity among medical, nursing and allied health personnel, and consumers, particularly in areas that can be applied to cancer service improvement. In this way cancer services will continue to reduce unwanted variations in practice and provide high quality services to all. If you are interested in finding more about PD grants please go to our website.



### *Best wishes to Mirela, Welcome Olive*

**Mirela Matthews** is off to have her baby so will be on leave for 12 months. We wish her all the best for the arrival of the new baby and look forward to her return to NEMICS next year.

**Olive Lee** is covering Mirela's position as Directorate Project Officer. She will also be the Service Improvement Facilitator (SIF) for the Head & Neck and Colorectal Tumour Streams.

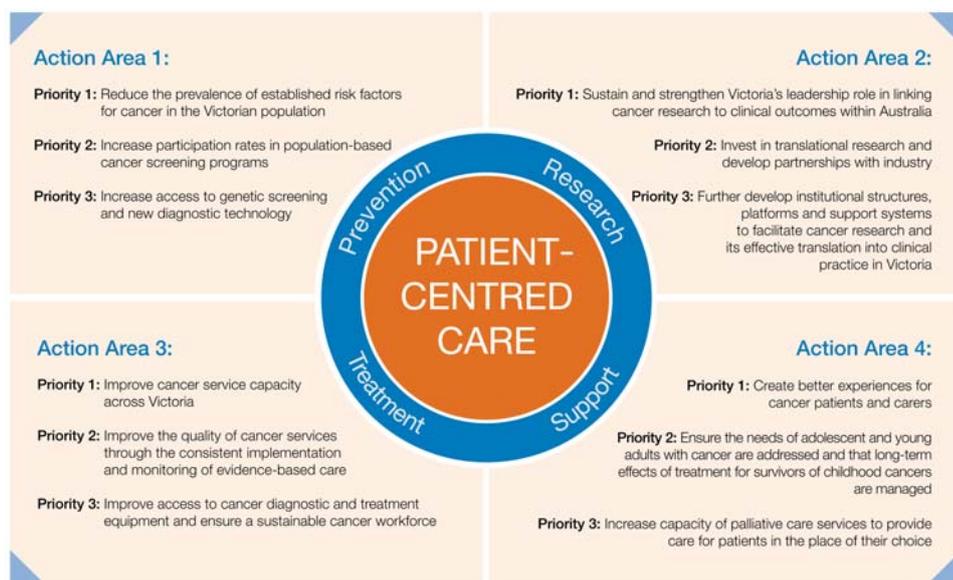
## Victoria's Cancer Action Plan 2008 - 2011

The Victorian Government launched its \$150 million *Victoria's Cancer Action Plan* (VCAP) in December last year. The VCAP aims to further increase 5 year survival rates by 10% or save up to 2,000 Victorian lives that would otherwise have been lost to cancer.

The four action areas are:

- 1 Reducing major cancer risk factors in the population and maximising effective screening – \$24.06M
- 2 Ensuring rapid translation of research into effective treatments and clinical care – \$78.77M
- 3 Investing in world-class, innovative, treatments and technologies and sustainable integrated care systems – \$18.42M
- 4 Supporting and empowering patients and their carers throughout their cancer journey – \$28.78M

Under each action area there are 3 priority areas as shown on the 'Patient Centred Care' model below.



**Create better experiences for cancer patients and carers – Action Area 4 Priority 1,** encompasses the work of NEMICS in promoting multidisciplinary care and developing supportive care services. The actions to be undertaken within this area are:

- increase consumer participation
- support continued development of multidisciplinary management of cancer care
- increase access to supportive care through introduction of supportive care screening and training of the cancer workforce
- develop innovative and flexible models for follow up cancer care.

Aspirational targets are included in the plan. The targets for the key areas of consumer participation, multidisciplinary care and supportive care include:

- work towards increasing the number of newly diagnosed cancer patients that have a documented multidisciplinary care treatment plan by 20 percent, aiming to achieve 80% by 2012
- aim to document supportive care screening for 50% of newly diagnosed cancer patients by 2012
- by 2012 we will provide evidence of training of cancer workforce in supportive care screening processes and survivorship awareness
- work with consumer organisations in a range of tumour streams to support programs that train consumer advocates .

***Cancer is the leading cause of death in Victoria.  
The VCAP is an important initiative that the Government  
has introduced as part of its ongoing reform agenda to  
ensure that everything possible is being done to improve  
all aspects of management of this disease.***

## ***NEMICS Annual Forum*** ***Come and hear Professor Moyez Jiwa***

**NEMICS Annual Forum**  
**Tuesday 16th June 2009**  
**5.45-7.30pm**

Registration and refreshments 5.15 to 5.45

Manningham Council Offices, Function Room 1  
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, 3108

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

#### **Professor Moyez Jiwa**

Professor Moyez is Professor of Health Innovation at Curtin University of Technology (WA), a practising GP and has a very keen interest in the areas of prevention, diagnosis and management of chronic conditions, especially cancer. He also has broad and international clinical experience in this area of supporting the general practitioner in referring patients efficiently so that the right patient consults the right professional at the right time.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Difficult to Reach Consumers	Ms Margaret McKenzie
Pathways that cross public & private services	Dr Nicola Bruce
Using technology to support regional linkages	A/Prof Paul Mitchell
Advanced Breast Cancer - Best Practice Pathway	Dr Jacquie Chirgwin
Supportive Care Directory	Ms Julia Todd

All welcome to attend. Please contact Jan on 9496 3322 to RSVP

Just a reminder that there is a second event that Professor Moyez Jiwa will be presenting at:

### **Cancer Care Referral Pathways Workshop**

**Wednesday 17th June 2009 6.00 – 8.00 pm** (Refreshments served from 6pm)  
The McCubbin Room, The Centre Ivanhoe, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

The workshop will include a facilitated panel discussion between GPs and acute care clinicians to gain an understanding about the

- influences that determine GP behaviour in relation to referrals of people with suspected cancer
- information requirements of GPs in order to refer a person with suspected cancer
- components of an effective and acceptable referral pathway
- issues in relation to referral pathways for cancer care between GPs and acute care oncology clinicians

Invitations have been extended to relevant acute and primary care physicians.

If you would like to attend, please phone Dean on 9496 3213 by 5 June 2009 (RSVP essential)

### **Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Supportive Care Conference** **Monday 19 October 2009 at RACV Club Melbourne**

The Victorian Integrated Cancer Services (ICS) invite you to attend and/or submit abstracts for presentation and posters. The central theme of the conference is

#### **Integrating supportive care: a team approach**

The objectives are to:

- establish the evidence including screening tools, definitions, roles and responsibilities of a team approach to supportive care
- understand the enablers and barriers to successful integration of supportive care practice
- explore examples of best practice.

Abstracts close 3 July 2009.

Enq: Nyree Dillon WCMICS [nyree.dillon@wcmics.org](mailto:nyree.dillon@wcmics.org)