



## CanNET II Victoria Update

plinary team meetings (MDMs).

Key to the success of these meetings is reliable and appropriate equipment. Late last year we commissioned a technology integrator (CHW Consultants) to review a number of meeting rooms used for MDMs and provide recommendations for improvements. This report is now available on the [NEMICS website](#). Also available on the website is a new [comparison matrix](#) from the Australian Centre for Health Innovation providing a description of current online meeting technologies.

Mercy Hospital for Women commenced its first link using OMT, linking a medical oncologist based at Peter Mac

CanNET Victoria continues to use online meeting technology (OMT) to develop and enhance linkages between clinicians in both metropolitan and regional areas to multidisciplinary team meetings (MDMs).

with the Gynecology MDM, on 8 April. This enables both the oncologist linking in and team at the Mercy to view the pathology images in real time. Another link is planned for oncologists in the Albury Wodonga area.

Other current activities include using OMT to link the Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Medical Centre paediatric units, and assisting with the establishment of a new MDM in Shepparton to discuss patients with gastrointestinal cancer.

The ICS consumer participation group, organised by CanNET Victoria, has met twice so far. Working parties are looking at training for consumers, clinicians and administrators, as well as promoting consistent approaches to the recruitment and support of consumers involved in ICS activities. For more information about CanNET Victoria activities please contact Marg McKenzie on 9496 3322.

## Introducing Natasha Krajcar

NEMICS is pleased to welcome Natasha Krajcar to the role of Service Improvement Facilitator for Coordinated Care.

Natasha comes from a public health and health service management background and has worked in a variety of positions in public and private acute and sub acute hospitals, Department of Health and the community health sector.

Natasha is looking forward to meeting and working with the NEMICS network in helping to identify opportunities to provide a more integrated cancer care experience for patients



## CANMAP Implementation



In 2010, NEMICS provided a web-based program called CANMAP to improve and streamline the administrative processes for multidisciplinary meetings in our health services. This program supports the preparation of agendas, sending out emails, capturing the discussion and treatment recommendations during the meetings, and formatting the report that is filed in the patient's clinical record.

Each health service in the region has its own version and tumour specific modules have been developed to meet the needs of each tumour stream. Since we started the implementation the tool has been introduced in 60% of the meetings in the region - 80% at Eastern Health, 66% at Austin Health and 33% at Northern Health.

The program can be projected during the meeting, so that all participants can see the record of the discussion and the recommendations in real time. This strategy has proved successful for improving the quality of recording the discussion and recommended treatment plan. This has been achieved in 64% of meetings where CANMAP is used.

Continuing work on this project will include increasing the routine communication of meeting recommendations to GPs and improving links between CANMAP and health service information systems.

## Supportive Care Update

In the two years since NEMICS offered grants to its member health services to implement supportive care screening for cancer patients, a great deal of progress has been made. A [report](#) summarising achievements and progress of the Austin Health, Eastern Health and Northern Health projects is now available on the [NEMICS website](#). Project officers from four health services continue to share information and work together on strategies to improve the uptake and quality of screening.

What did consumers say about the supportive care screening?

*"Sometimes you think they (staff) have so many things on their minds and so many patients. This can be a good way to tell them how I am going".*

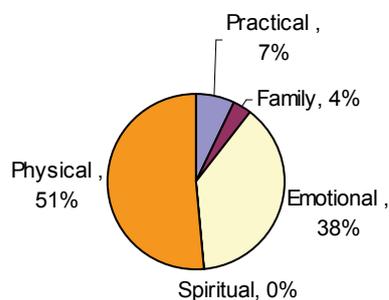
*"We indicated a score of 7 because of the pain and the doctor came straight away and changed the medication dose. We had mentioned it before but nothing happened".*

*'It is very difficult to talk at times, and you feel very awkward when you have emotional issues. It is easier to tick a box than verbally admit to your problems.'*

You can read a short [presentation](#) about a network approach to implementing systematic and routine supportive care screening across NEMICS. For more information on supportive care contact Melissa Shand at [contactus@nemics.org.au](mailto:contactus@nemics.org.au)

*Most commonly reported problems by supportive care domains (cumulative report from Austin Health, Eastern Health and Northern Health). (Figure 2 of the SC Evaluation Report NEMICS March 2011)*

Most commonly reported problems



### Project results in brief:

- 333 patients screened
- 40 % reported significant distress (4 or higher on the DT).
- More than 97 clinicians trained in supportive care screening

## Consumer Consultation Report — Mercy Hospital for Women

Consumers' experiences are important in the design and implementation of service improvement projects.

A consumer consultation was done with consumers who have had experience with gynaecological cancer and who were treated at Mercy Hospital Women as a part of the Supportive Care Project

A report documenting the consumer consultation can be found on the consumer page of [NEMICS website](#).



**Victorian Integrated Cancer Services** **SUPPORTIVE CARE CONFERENCE 2011**

Monday 11th July 2011 - Melbourne's Hilton on the Park

**Supportive cancer care into the future – sustaining, surviving, and growing**

Don't forget to register for the statewide supportive care conference being held Monday 11th July. To register or for more information visit <http://supportivecancercarevictoria.org/>




## New CanTeen Counselling Service

### Canteen has a new counselling service for adolescents and young adults

Canteen is now able to offer a free service to:

- young people whose mum or dad have been diagnosed with cancer
- young people who have lost a parent to cancer
- young people aged 12-24 years

They also offer:

- face to face counselling
- telephone counselling
- online counselling
- group counselling coming soon

More information can be found at on the AYA page of [NEMICS website](#)



## Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer

### Victorian Cancer Trials Link - A Resource to Find Suitable Clinical Trials for Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA)

Survival rates for AYA are lower than those for children and older adults. Access to clinical trials is a component of cancer care that can significantly improve outcomes for patients.

The Victorian Cancer Trials Link (VCTL) website is a clinical trial matching database intended to make it easier for cancer patients and clinicians to find suitable clinical trials for patients. Patients can also seek out clinical trial information themselves from the site.

For further VCTL information visit the website at [www.cancervic.org.au/trials](http://www.cancervic.org.au/trials) or contact Cancer Council Victoria by email at [trialslink@cancervic.org.au](mailto:trialslink@cancervic.org.au)

A [clinical trial](#) looking specifically at way chemotherapy is processed in the body of an AYA differently from a child or an adult is currently open at Peter Mac Callum Cancer

Centre

The aim of the Victorian & Tasmanian Youth Cancer Project is to support changes that will improve the state-wide services for adolescents and young adults with cancer, including increasing enrolment in clinical trials.

This work will build upon the services currently provided by onTrac@PeterMac and will aim to improve access to developmentally appropriate support for young people as close to home as possible.

For further information on the Victorian & Tasmanian Youth Cancer Network or AYA clinical trial information contact [YouthCancerProject@petermac.org](mailto:YouthCancerProject@petermac.org) or phone 03 9656 5241.



## Volunteer for Breacan

### Your Experience of Breast or Gynaecological Cancer Can Help Others

Breacan is recruiting women who have experienced breast or a gynaecological cancer to support others affected by these cancers.

For more information call 1300 781 500 or visit [www.breacan.org.au](http://www.breacan.org.au)

## Living with Cancer

Registrations are now open for the Living with Cancer education program.

The program will be held over two half days on  
**10th May and 17th May**  
**From 10.15am—2.00pm**  
**at the Repatriation Hospital**

Topics include:

- What is cancer
- Cancer treatments
- Diet and cancer
- Personal reactions and communication
- Techniques to enhance wellbeing
- Supports and services in the community

Further information and registration form can be found on the [NEMICS website](#).

## NEW Guidelines Open for Public Consultation

### Nutritional Management for Head & Neck Cancer

These guidelines are aimed at the multidisciplinary team to provide best practice nutritional management for patients with Head & Neck cancer throughout their care.

The consultation and development process involved a multidisciplinary group to ensure the needs of consumers and the treating team were met.

The new guidelines are now open for public consultation on a wiki [here](#) until **13 May 2011**

### Management of Gastroenterohepatic Neuroendocrine Tumours (GRP NET)

These guidelines aim to raise awareness of the increasing multidisciplinary management options for patients with this uncommon group of diseases.

The new GEP NETs guidelines are now open for public consultation on a wiki platform [here](#) until **30 June 2011**

## Oncology Rehabilitation

A diagnosis of cancer can be devastating. The impact of the disease can limit a person's ability to get through a normal day, play with their children or plan for the future. Many people face major fatigue.

Eastern Health offers a rehabilitation program specifically for cancer patients dealing with these problems. This is an outpatient program that runs twice a week on Tuesday and Friday mornings at Wantirna Health. The program combines exercise and information aimed at decreasing cancer related fatigue and to improve function. The information sessions cover a broad range of topics including managing fatigue, returning to work and planning a holiday.

There is a small cost for the service. In case of financial hardship, special arrangements regarding costs can be negotiated. To find out more, please contact the program coordinator Delwyn Morgan on 0457563174.



## Psycho-Oncology Short Courses

Dr Di Clifton in conjunction with MCCP and The University of Melbourne is running the following short courses .

### Essential Counselling Skills in Cancer Care

**10th May 2011** 8.30am—5.00pm

Graduate House, Carlton

This course is aimed at staff who work in the cancer field and have no formal training in counselling skills. The course will cover topics including distress, anxiety, anger and fear of dying.

### Identification & Management of Psychological & Psychiatric Syndromes in Cancer Care

**23rd and 24th June 2011** 8.30am—5.00pm

Graduate House, Carlton

This course covers: screening and assessment, distress, depression, anxiety, demoralization, PTSD, grief, personality disorders, substance abuse, co-morbid disorders, organic disorders including delirium and cerebral pathology, psychotropic use and psychiatric effects of non-psychotropic medications and the experience of the health professional.

### Psychotherapies for Cancer Patients & their Families

**1st and 2nd September 2011** 8.30am—5.00pm

University College, Parkville

This specialist course has been designed for qualified and experienced psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors, social workers and nurses to provide an opportunity to learn about the specific psychotherapeutic approaches to working with people with cancer and the application of these skills in a clinical setting.