

2013 NEMICS Annual Workshop

Representatives from Warringal Private Hospital, Epworth Eastern, Ringwood Private and Knox Private Hospital were invited to join the NEMICS governance committee and clinical and consumer reference groups at the NEMICS annual planning workshop. Northern Melbourne Medicare Local also had a presence. This workshop helps to inform the NEMICS strategic work plan for the next year.

Topics of interest to the participants included improving information flow within and between services, better connections between the acute health services and primary care, further rolling out supportive care screening to all sites providing cancer care, improving clinical trial participation and workforce education and development.

The workshop provided some innovative ideas that will be incorporated into the on-going work of building the network and improving the model of care.



For the first time, the NEMICS annual workshop warmly welcomed cancer care providers from the private sector

Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Inaugural Conference 2013

13th - 14th May, 2013 | Rydges Hotel Melbourne



Connecting care, driving best practice and improving patient outcomes

You are invited to attend the Inaugural Victorian Integrated Cancer Services conference to be held at Rydges Melbourne (on Exhibition Street) from 13- 14 May 2013. This inaugural conference of the nine Integrated Cancer Services will showcase exciting work and developments across all aspects of cancer care in Victoria.

Conference themes include:

- Multidisciplinary care
- Cancer epidemiology, data metrics and implications in practice
- Translational and health services research
- Symptom management, late effects and treatment
- Quality improvement
- Integration
- Supportive care
- Survivorship

The program will include presentations by leading experts in the cancer field. Oral presentations and poster sessions will also be included in the program.

Clinicians from all disciplines, health service quality managers and consumers are encouraged to attend.

Early bird registrations close 12 April 2013.

For further information, or to register visit <http://vics2013.org>

Moving Forward with Confidence: implementing self-management survivorship care plans

Moving forward with confidence is trialling a process for introducing self-management plans for people who have finished their cancer treatment. The project is now also recruiting participants through The Cancer Council Victoria (CCV) Nurse HELPLINE service and through support groups in the NEMICS area.

So far the project has recruited from NEMICS health services, and include people who have had breast, colorectal and haematology cancers. Participants have also come via the Eastern Health oncology rehabilitation service.

Feedback about the project has been positive. Participants value the wellbeing focus, the opportunity to meet with a specialist nurse and the telephone support coming from the CCV Nurse HELPLINE.

Some of the lessons learned:

- The word "survivor" can complicate recruitment and fixing on an agreed definition of cancer survivorship is complex.

- The intended population for this project was people with less advanced cancer, but some patients with metastatic disease may also benefit from this process.
- It is more difficult than expected for some the health services to routinely identify people who could benefit from a self-management plan.
- Many survivors need time to adjust after finishing their treatment in order to feel ready to engage in a self-management survivorship plan.
- There are opportunities to improve the links between health services and community organisations regarding survivorship support.

The '*Moving forward with confidence*' project will be recruiting until July 2013. For more information, contact Paula Howell on 9496 3886 or email paula.howell@austin.org.au

Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer: Survivorship Conference

Consumers, researchers and clinicians had energetic discussions about future directions for survivorship care at the inaugural national survivorship conference held in Adelaide.

The conference showcased evidence-based ways of dealing with some of the major survivorship concerns: symptom management, fear of cancer recurrence, the promotion of wellness and the management of late effects.

One highlight was the exciting research by Dr Lee Jones into how exercise can affect cancer progression and the effect of some treatments on the cardiovascular system.

Research into the unmet needs of Australian cancer survivors and carers was presented. People from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to have many more physical and information needs that go unmet. Only one fifth get information about cancer and treatments in their own language.

Ways to improve life for cancer survivors were also discussed. These included e-health follow up, shared care models, self-management support and hospital/community partnerships. What needed is an ongoing close collaboration between researchers, clinicians and consumers.

NEMICS presented a poster with lessons learned from the implementation of the '*Moving forward with confidence*' survivorship project.

The Flinders Charter of Cancer Survivorship was launched at the conference. The Charter was developed as an outcome of the conference, affirming the importance of collaboration between survivors, clinicians and researchers. To learn more about the Charter or to sign up go to: www.fcic.org.au/survivorship



Paula Howell,
Survivorship Project Officer

Supportive Care Screening—How are we Going?

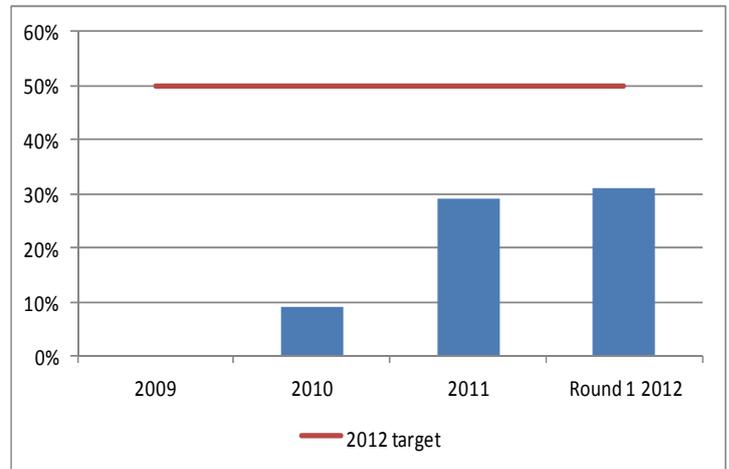
A medical record audit in November showed that nearly all tumour streams demonstrated an improvement in supportive care screening results.

The breast, central nervous system, haematology and head & neck tumour streams met the Department of Health's target for 2012.

According to the audit the NEMICS health services did not meet the target with 31% of newly diagnosed cancer patients being screened.

Implementation projects for supportive care screening are continuing. Phase 2 of the NEMICS Supportive Care Grant Program is introducing screening into the specialist clinic and other inpatient areas.

So far screening is happening in day oncology units, radiotherapy services, inpatient oncology wards, lymphoedema clinics, and the oncology rehabilitation program at Wantirna Health.



Supportive Care Screening Grants Program

Phase 2 of the implementation projects will expand screening to specialist clinics. This will improve access for patients whose only contact with the hospital after their surgery is a clinic appointment, or who are on a 'watch and wait' program for their cancer.

So far screening has been implemented across all NEMICS breast clinics, the gynae-oncology clinic at Mercy Hospital for Women, the Eastern@Home program at Eastern Health, haematology and genitourinary specialist clinics at Northern Health and neuro-oncology specialist clinic at Austin Health.

The phase 2 projects in the health services have started at different times; Mercy Hospital for Women has already completed their implementation project. We would like to thank project officer, Cathie Corrick for her dedication and hard work at the Mercy.

NEMICS is also interested in promoting the introduction of supportive care screening in the private health services. Screening is occurring at Ringwood Private and at Radiation Oncology Victoria (ROV) at Epping. Work is aimed at embedding screening into normal clinical practice in these units. We are also looking at ways to promote the introduction into other private oncology services.

Supportive Cancer Care Victoria Evaluation

The Department of Health has recently released their evaluation report on the Supportive Cancer Care Victoria Project (July 2009 to September 2011). The project aimed to assist in the implementation of supportive care screening into Victorian health services. It did this through developing resources and providing professional education opportunities for the cancer workforce.

The report found that there is general support for supportive care screening across Victoria. A base level of knowledge and acceptance has been established which can be built upon. However work to embed screening into routine clinical practice is still needed. It is also important to expand screening across all areas of the health service where oncology patients are treated.

At a state-wide level it was recommended that activities such as scholarships, staff exchanges, best practice awards and research funding could further develop supportive care across Victoria. Professional development opportunities continue to be offered.

The full report can be found on the NEMICS website under supportive care: www.nemics.org.au.

Cancer Australia Launches Two Consumer Resources

Two new online tools that will help consumers to become more knowledgeable about cancer research and to become more involved in improving the cancer system are now available.

Consumers, health professionals, researchers and policy makers from health organisations across Australia have helped to develop these new resources.

Consumer Learning Website consumerlearning.canceraustralia.gov.au

This website is aimed at improving consumer knowledge and confidence about cancer research and clinical trials. The website contains online learning modules and videos. It was developed in collaboration with the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia.

Consumer Involvement Toolkit consumerinvolvement.canceraustralia.gov.au

This toolkit supports health service leaders, health professionals, researchers and policy makers to involve consumers in their organisation's work.

By using easy and practical tools such as case studies, templates and checklists, it is hoped organisations will find it easier to engage and involve consumers.

The Consumer Involvement Toolkit was developed with the help of the Health Issues Centre

New Cancer Directory Resource

Searching for health information online is one of the most common tasks performed by people who face cancer. Many users begin searching on popular search engines rather than accessing evidence-based information from credible sites.

With so much information available on the internet, it is difficult to tell what information is reliable and whether the website is trustworthy?

Cancer Council NSW now hosts a national website, containing only credible, current and complete cancer care resources that are published to a high standard, screened and peer-reviewed.

The Cancer Directory has been created for use by health professionals and members of the public. All state governments, the Australian government, Cancer Councils, major health services and the large not for profit organisations contribute to the directory.

The Cancer Directory contains more than 2000 resources, in over 40 languages on prevention, screening, early detection, treatment, advanced cancer, practical support - including finance and workplace guidelines, psychosocial needs and cancer survival.

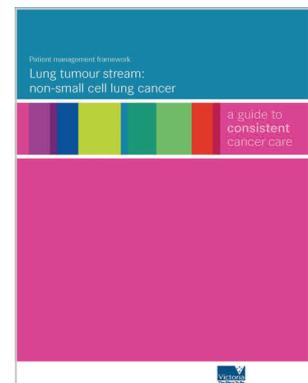
Visit www.cancerdirectory.com.au

Remember These ?

The Victorian Patient Management Frameworks (PMF) are being revised. Initially developed in 2006, these evidence-based documents outline the ideal care for 13 tumour streams covering 95% of cancer diagnoses.

The revised versions will incorporate new evidence and expectations for care in the screening, diagnosis, treatment and after-treatment phases of the cancer journey. Shorter versions will be developed for consumers. This two year Department of Health sponsored project is being undertaken by Cancer Council Victoria.

The lung and colorectal PMFs are the first to be reviewed.



Congratulations Mirela

NEMICS Quality and Projects Manager, Mirela Matthews and husband Pete welcomed their second son Joshua in early February. Mirela and Joshua are both doing well.

Best wishes to Mirela and her family

New Northern Health Supportive Care Officer

Tania Rowe has joined the supportive care screening implementation project team at Northern Health.

Tania has a background in clinical nursing with extensive experience in emergency nursing and chronic disease management. She has worked in acute and community healthcare settings. She will join Genevieve Francis in the supportive care screening project at Northern Health, working Thursdays and Fridays.



L to R: Maree Glynn, Genevieve Francis, Hugh Burch, Tania Rowe

New SIF for Mercy Hospital for Women

Cathie Corrick, last seen in her role as the Mercy Hospital for Women supportive care implementation officer, has accepted the role of MHW Service Improvement Facilitator. Cathie starts in the NEMICS health service SIF role in March, and along with Nadia, Luellen and Hugh, will provide a vital link between the NEMICS directorate and the health services.

As well as liaising, Cathie will be supporting and facilitating cancer service improvements within MHW gynaecology and oncology cancer services, particularly in the areas of multidisciplinary and supportive care.

Welcome Cathie!

Clinical Leadership in Quality and Safety – CLIQS Program

Applications for the Victorian Department of Health's Clinical Leadership in Quality and Safety (CLIQS) program for 2013 are now open.

Effective clinical leadership is an important driver of healthcare quality and safety improvement. Following on from the international award-winning 2011–12 pilot program, the Department of Health has again engaged the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) and consortium partners La Trobe University, the Australian Centre for Leadership Development and Qualityworks to develop and deliver a leadership program for health professionals.

Over eight months participants will learn to apply best practice clinical leadership that addresses quality and safety issues within healthcare settings. The program delivery is a combination of learning modes, beginning with a one-day face-to-face workshop in Melbourne on Friday, 10 May 2013.

The program is open to clinicians working in a range of public and private healthcare settings: health services, acute health services, aged care facilities, community health services and the primary care sector in Victoria. To apply or for further information visit: www.achsm.org.au/members-services

COSAs 40th Annual Scientific Meeting Cancer Care Coming of Age

12-14 November 2013 at Adelaide Convention Centre

Registration and abstract submissions are now open

The theme for COSAs 40th ASM **Cancer Care Coming of Age** will highlight geriatric oncology. Disease themes will concentrate on gastro-intestinal cancers and encompass gastric, oesophagus and hepatobiliary tumours, as well as colorectal cancer.

Visit www.cosa2013.org for further information