

Aged Care News

~ keeping GPs & nursing homes informed ~

Issue 6, December 2006

Program continues to grow

Another year draws to a close with progress continuing to introduce Medical Director into residential aged care facilities in our division.

This has been a team effort involving the division, management and nursing staff of aged care facilities, GPs providing services to residents of aged care facilities and pharmacists working with GPs and aged care facilities.

Since the introduction of the

aged care GP panels initiative in July 2004, the willingness and enthusiasm from both GPs and aged care facilities has been central to the success of the NRDGP program to date, embracing technology as a key management tool for the ongoing care of residents.

Currently 9 aged care facilities in our divisional area are involved in the program with 30 GPs providing services to these facilities utilising the Medical Director pro-

gram when visiting their aged care residents.

Recently a letter was sent to directors of care of the aged care facilities in our division inviting them to participate in the second phase of the NRDGP initiative which will aim to consolidate a sustainable IT solution for facilities throughout the Northern Rivers area. To date, several facilities have expressed interest in moving to the next phase of the project and this will be addressed in the new year, looking at piloting in February 2007.

Other news

In October an educational event was held at Alstonville, kindly sponsored by Pfizer. Dr Hugh Fairfull-Smith presented on Mental Disorders in Later Life. The event was very well attended by both GPs and aged care facility representatives. Hugh addressed issues associated with the complexities of the assessment and management of patients with Dementia and Parkinson's Disease.

Representatives of aged care

facilities recently attended the annual forum for aged care held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, organised by the National Divisions Network Forum. This was an opportunity for aged care representatives to gain a better understanding of how divisions of general practice work and the need to work together for a better outcome for the primary medical care for residents of aged care facilities.



PO Judy Sheldon and David Cook
Aged Care - a team effort

What's happening in 2007

In 2007 I will be working with the GPs and aged care facilities, assisting them with CMAs, RMMRs, care planning and case conferencing. I will also be looking at conducting a workshop for GPs and aged care facilities staff to establish a GP and residential aged care kit. This kit will aim to provide a partnership approach as well as tools to assist GPs, staff in residential aged care facilities and other serv-

ice providers who provide medical care for residents.

Finally I would like to thank the GPs and aged care staff and pharmacists that have been supportive in participating in the Medical Director program and look forward to a team approach in 2007 to provide primary care for the residents of aged care facilities.

~ Judy Sheldon



May you and your families have a safe, happy, peaceful and healthy festive season.