

# Older People News

## Statewide Clinical Networks

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Statewide Older People Clinical Network. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the activities of the Network and any service developments arising from the workgroups.

### Statewide Older People Clinical Network Establishment

The Statewide Older People Clinical Network (Network) was established in December 2009 with Karen Parish and A/Professor Craig Whitehead as the Co Chairs.

Statewide Clinical Networks have been established to:

- > increase the level of clinician involvement in the planning of health services
- > find ways to better coordinate delivery of these services
- > ensure better outcomes for all South Australians
- > ensure a strong, sustainable health workforce

### Network Steering Committee

The Network Steering Committee has been established with a broad cross section of expertise and experience from across the state as well as a consumer focus through two consumer representatives. The Steering Committee membership can be seen in the table on the right.

The principal goal of the Steering Committee is to further develop the recommendations outlined in the South Australian Health Service Framework for Older People 2009-2016 and to monitor implementation of the recommendations from the Network and Service Plan.

This includes advising on the development of patient centred, sustainable and effective clinical services across the continuum of care using models of care based on best practice and population need. The models shall be readily accessible, efficiently provided and evidence based. Consideration will be given to a range of approaches to ensure services are equitable for rural and remote consumers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and special population groups.

**Steering Committee Membership**

Name	Position
Karen Parish Co Chair	Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, Southern Adelaide Health Service(SAHS)
Craig Whitehead Co Chair	Director of Geriatric Medicine, SAHS
John Sniatynskj	General Practitioner, Urban
Stephan van Eeden	General Practitioner, Rural
Alan Graham	Chief Executive, Aged and Community Services
Bob Penhall	Director, Dept Geriatric & Rehab Medicine, Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH)
Renuka Visvanathan	Director, Aged & Extended Care Services, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Jeff Faunt	Geriatrician RAH
Lee Sando	Aged Care
Amy Foote	Aged Care Project Officer, County Health SA
Dianne Halliday	A/Manager Day Rehab Centre
Loueen Bainger	Consumer
Sue Jarrad	Consumer
Dale Cleaver	RDNS
Merelyn Boyce (ex-officio)	Network Development Manager



## Network Priorities over the next 12 months

The Network Co-Chairs meet quarterly with the Statewide Service Strategy Division, SA Health and Regional Chief Executive Officers to ensure the work of the Network is congruent with service delivery and health reform priorities. The Network Steering Committee has determined that five workgroups will be established in the first instance, to look at the priority areas over the next 12 months. It is anticipated the process for the workgroups will be to:

- > Map services already available and undertake a gap analysis with what is required to comply with the Older People Framework.
- > Identify exemplary services.
- > Identify areas of access block and determine causation, i.e. problems with coordination of entry to service or problems with volume of demand exceeding supply.

## Rural Services for Older People

In particular this workgroup will:

- > Consider the Country Health South Australia Model of Care for aged services in the country in relation to the recommendations of the Older People Framework.
- > Consider the patient journey issues for older people needing to use metropolitan health services.
- > Identify relevant outcome measures / key performance indicators for rural services for older people.

## Inpatient Geriatric Evaluation Management (GEM) Units

GEM units are currently being established in metropolitan and country hospitals, this workgroup will:

- > Consider the purpose and principles underlying these GEM units.
- > Identify the appropriate resources, structure and practices within GEM units in order to develop a model that can be consistently applied across South Australia whilst meeting local and specific needs.
- > Identify relevant outcome measures / key performance indicators for GEM units.

## Community based Rapid Assessment Response

This workgroup will:


- > Consider the model for timely, comprehensive physical and psychosocial health assessment of older people in the community. It will have a particular focus on older people at risk of acute health crisis that requires hospitalisation.
- > Identify relevant outcome measures / key performance indicators for community based rapid assessment teams.

## Regional Geriatric Services

This workgroup will:

- > Consider the model for regional services that better meet the demand for complex health care for older people across the range of health settings.
- > Identify the elements that form an integrated health service response using





flexible coordinated care across a range of specialist and primary health care service options.

- > Identify relevant outcome measures / key performance indicators for regional Geriatric Services

## Care of the Older Person in Acute Hospitals

This workgroup will:

- > Consider current models of acute assessment and management units in hospitals in order to determine how to best meet the needs of older people who require admission.
- > Review available literature on standards for hospital care for older people
- > Identify a model / standard which can be applied across all acute hospitals in relation to the care of Older People
- > Coordinate a gap analysis of current acute inpatient services against the agreed standards
- > Coordinate and over sight an action plan to address recommendations from the gap analysis
- > Monitor outcomes of the action plan.

## If you want to get more involved in the Older People Clinical Network

A contact database is being developed of individuals and organisations that wish to keep updated and involved in the Older People Network.

If you have knowledge, experience or a special interest, and you would like to contribute to the network, or just receive further information, please contact us to register your interest. Please e-mail your details to:

Ms Merelyn Boyce, Network Development Manager

[merelyn.boyce@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:merelyn.boyce@health.sa.gov.au) or phone: (08) 8201 7819

Co Chairs, Statewide Older People Clinical Network

[karen.parish@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:karen.parish@health.sa.gov.au) or phone: (08) 8201 7880

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Further information on the Statewide Clinical Networks is available on the SA Health website.

[www.health.sa.gov.au/clinicalnetworks](http://www.health.sa.gov.au/clinicalnetworks)

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## For more information

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