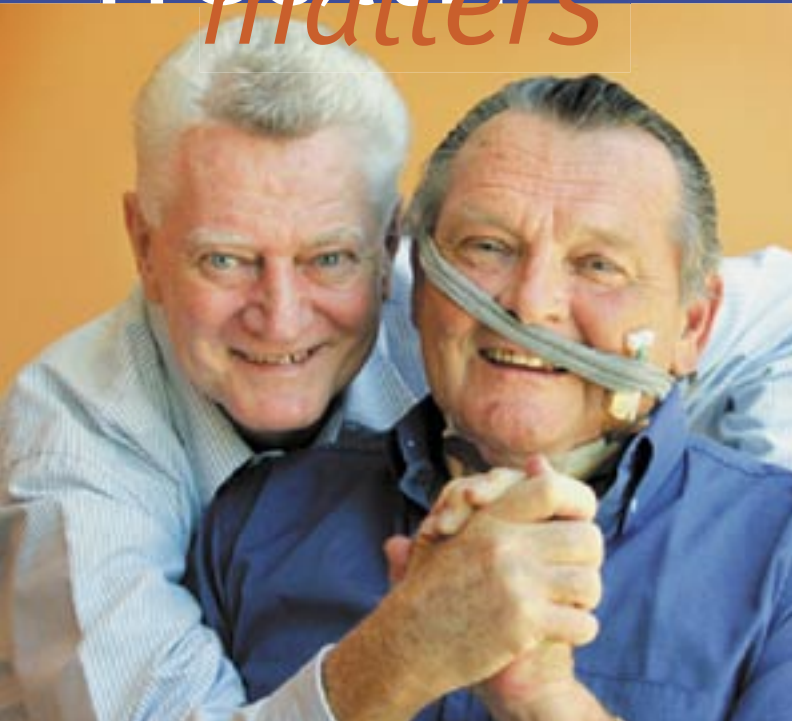




health matters



Top marks for Townsville

directions *Dr John Scott, A/Director-General*

The Australian Medical Association (Queensland) has a right to lobby for more money for its members ahead of enterprise bargaining negotiations which start shortly.

But last month's cloak and dagger antics around a poor document masquerading as an 'audit' should be seen for the sham that it is.

In just one example, the AMAQ claimed the Government had failed to deliver a new cardiac surgical team at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. In fact, the team had been recruited and operating since last November.

Their 53 page report is riddled with inaccuracies and, far from any 'insight', it shows an alarming lack of understanding by the AMAQ about what's happening inside our 200 health care facilities, much less the changes underway to provide improved services for Queensland patients in the future.

There is a medical term for fighting for more dollars by deliberately undermining the public's confidence in the health system - it's called scare-mongering.

Equally, it is inappropriate to generate expectation among the public that this so-called 'crisis' can simply be solved by employing more doctors.

The AMAQ knows only too well that we have vacancies that can't be filled because of a national shortage of specialist staff.

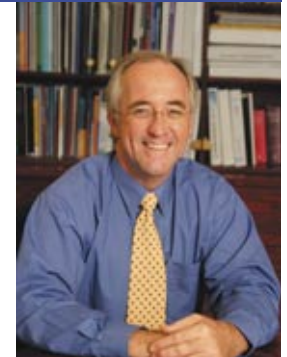
Meanwhile, their silence on similar vacancies in the private sector is deafening.

So at a time when all Australian states, and both public and private health sectors, are contending with a national shortage of specialists, and the AMAQ is drawing attention to longer working hours, it is ironic then that it should so vigorously resist Queensland Health's plans to upgrade nursing roles to help alleviate the problem.

'Cake' and 'eating it too' comes to mind.

The AMAQ's slogan is "Doctors dedicated to the health of all Queenslanders."

I can't imagine that patients are helped when an organisation chooses the path of undermining public confidence, and actively works against Queensland's leading health care provider.



Two men who have a historic place in the health annals of Queensland - The Prince Charles Hospital's 100th lung transplant patient, Michael Campbell (left) and 250th heart transplant patient, Victor Foote. *Photo courtesy of Derek Moore, The Courier Mail. See story Page 2.*

The **Townsville** Hospital's Emergency Department has received two years accreditation for Advanced Training in Emergency Medicine, following an assessment conducted by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) late last year. The certificate was presented to the department by the Clinical Director, Institute of Medicine, Dr John Masson.

Emergency Department Director, Dr Niall Small, said the accreditation involved a full day of evaluation carried out by three survey-

ors from the ACEM.

"After interviewing and talking with a number of staff and analysing statistics, the inspection team forwarded their recommendation regarding the level of training thought achievable at the Hospital," said Dr Small.

"The Emergency Department was successful in their accreditation by achieving the maximum possible level of training in Emergency Medicine," he said.

"As a result of this accreditation, Emergency Medicine trainees can now complete all their training in North Queensland."

Health Matters is published by Public Affairs
Queensland Health.
147 – 163 Charlotte Street
Brisbane Q 4000

Editor

Ian Ross
Phone: (07) 323 41090
Fax: (07) 323 41909
Email: rossi@health.qld.gov.au

Design and layout

Production Services—Public Affairs

Queensland Health does not accept liability to any person for the information or advice provided in this publication or incorporated into it by reference. This publication is distributed and circulated as an information source only.

ISSN 1326-575X

Print and electronic media are welcome to use stories with or without acknowledgment.

Timeframes

Lodge articles for April with the editor before 4 March. If you have an item you consider newsworthy or require further information on articles in this edition, phone (07) 3234 1090.

Advertising agent

Horne Media
Phone: (07) 5577 9499
Fax: (07) 5577 9433
Email: advertising@hornemedia.com.au

Two create history

Victor Foote and Michael Campbell have claimed an important place in the history of Queensland Health and The Prince Charles Hospital.

Victor, Queensland's 250th heart transplant patient, and Michael the 100th lung transplant patient, received their transplants within a fortnight of each other.

Health Minister, Mr Gordon Nuttall said: "This is a significant achievement for Queensland Health, The Prince Charles Hospital and all transplant patients.

"It is patients like Mr Foote and Mr Campbell who remind us of the hundreds of people who have been given a second chance at life thanks to the skill and commitment of the team at The Prince Charles Hospital," he said.

"I commend the transplant team on their efforts as well as all the other staff who make transplants possible.

"I must also acknowledge the generosity of organ

donors and their families throughout Australia – without their special gifts, transplants like Mr Foote's and Mr Campbell's would not be possible."

The Prince Charles Hospital performed its first heart transplant in 1990 and first lung transplant in 1996.

Mr Nuttall said the hospital was one of only four Australian centres performing both heart and lung transplants.

"The Transplant Service, under the leadership of Dr Keith McNeil, is renowned for its internationally experienced staff and clinical excellence," he said.

"All clinicians involved bring extensive overseas training and experience to their respective fields."

In 2003, the transplant service performed Australia's first heart-lung-liver transplant with surgeons from The Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Speech program helping families

A new program which enables families to help young children who are having speech difficulties is being introduced in the Central Highlands Health Service District.

The speech pathology service, based at the Emerald Hospital, will use the "It Takes Two to Talk" program which helps parents play a more active role in their child's speech therapy.

Health Minister, Gordon Nuttall, said the program was designed to give parents the skills to help develop the child's language in their everyday natural environment.

"Parents become their child's primary language facilitator so that language intervention becomes a regular process," he said.

"This is much more effective than the child coming to

speech therapy once a week.

"It is important that we reach children who are having difficulty with language as early as possible.

"Early intervention can minimise the severity of the language delay and associated behavioural, social and family disruptions which have been found to be related to pre-school language disorders."

Central Highlands Health Service District Manager Kerry Winsor said the program was developed by the Hanen Centre, a Canadian charitable organisation which helps young children at risk of language delays.

"It is widely used in the USA, the UK, Ireland and Australia, and now we are pleased to have the opportunity to offer it to families in the Central Highlands," she said.

Vic Callanan honoured



Associate Professor Victor Ian Callanan, Director of Anaesthetics at Townsville Hospital, was one of 24 Queensland public servants, named in the Australia Day Honours List.

Assoc Prof Callanan, pictured, was named as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

The citation said he received the award “for service to medicine through the improvement and expansion of medical services in north Queensland, particularly in the field of anaesthesia, intensive care, pain management, and hyperbaric medicine, and to surf lifesaving”.

Recognition for staff achievements

Twenty Queensland Health staff and volunteers received Australia Day Achievement Medallions in ceremonies held throughout the state.

The awards were presented to officers and volunteers who had made a contribution to the work of the department, or who had given outstanding service over a number of years, said Director-General Dr Steve Buckland.

He said the medallions were a way of recognising individuals who had gone beyond the call of duty and provided services over and above their normal duties.

The medallion recipients are:

- Karen Geer, Home and Community Care Unit, Statewide Health and Community Services Branch.
- Dr Paul Zimmerman, Director, Thoracic Program, The Prince Charles Hospital.
- Deb Miller, Chief Operations Liaison Officer, Office of the SED Health Services.
- Mary (Lou) Beresford, Chair Gympie District Health Council.
- Dr Patrick Carroll, Director of Medicine, Redcliffe Hospital.
- Patricia Cay, Clinical Nurse, Ophthalmic Surgery, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.
- Dr Chris Barnes, Senior Medical Officer, Emergency

Department, Bundaberg Hospital.

- Di Gee, Registered Nurse, Emergency Department, Bundaberg Hospital.
- June Lithgow, District Manager, Central West Health Service District.
- Glenda Mackay, Cook Supervisor, Central Highlands Health Service District.
- Edward Wayne Fickling, Assistant in Nursing, Eventide Nursing Home Charters Towers.
- Nellie Dwyer, Cook, Clermont Hospital.
- Shirley Petrie, Nurse, Laura Primary Health Care Centre.
- Val Cleary, Volunteer, Sarina Hospital and Member of Sarina Primary Health Care Council.
- Heather Ward, District Relief Director of Nursing, Remote Hospitals, Tablelands Health Service District.
- Marjorie Cusack, volunteer, Laidley Health Service.
- Margaret Basingthwaighte, Operational Officer, Jandowae Health Services.
- Mellissa Knox, Nurse Manager, Women and Birthing Service, Redland Hospital.
- Dr Julie Mundy, Director Cardiac Surgery, Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Ms Marie Pietsch, Chair of Southern Downs District Health Council and Minister’s Rural Health Advisory Council.

Attack on dengue fever

The Dengue Action Response Team (DART) has a new weapon in its fight against dengue fever in Cairns.

A fleet of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) – small, portable computers – will be used to track dengue and mosquito breeding hotspots around the city.

The PDAs are an important tool in the Tropical Public Health Unit’s Dengue Fever Surveillance System.

This system includes both a field component (the PDAs and pocket printers), and an office component – databases and Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping software.

DART officers record information in the PDAs as they check and treat premises for mosquito breeding sites, and the information is downloaded at the office.

GIS maps are then generated to display dengue hotspots and the fieldwork conducted or required – premises checked

or treated, or mosquito traps set.

The four weather-proofed PDAs allow in-the-field data collection that is accurate, requires minimal data entry by the operator, and can provide field officers with a hardcopy on-the-spot report.

They also help DART meet the new Pest Management Regulations, allowing field officers to leave a report with householders on any chemicals used to treat their yard.

The Tropical Public Health Unit’s GIS Project Officer, Alistair Hart, said the new system allowed for fast and accurate data capture, which would help with outbreak analysis and response.

“The system allows easy identification of dengue hotspots and areas that need to be inspected for mosquito breeding,” he said.

Extra funding for operations

An extra \$20 million has been allocated in the State Government's mid-year Budget review to reduce public hospital waiting times so another 4000 people can receive operations and surgical procedures on time. The funding is on top of the election promise to devote an additional \$110 million to an elective surgery blitz over three and half years.

Premier Peter Beattie and Health Minister Gordon Nuttall made the announcement at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital, where they thanked staff for delivering an extra 800 procedures on top of their normal surgical workloads in 2004

Mr Beattie said the Productivity Commission had confirmed that Queensland patients had shorter waits for operations in public hospitals than any other Australians.

"This new commitment will cut waiting times still further and shows that the government is spending its economic success in places where it matters – like our hospitals," he said.

"We are currently treating an additional 8000 patients by spending an extra \$40 million in the year up to June 30 as part of the extra \$110 million.

"A further \$31 million from the \$110 million is already scheduled for spending in the year from July 1 this year and now we are coming up with a further \$10 million to be spent in that period and \$10 million in the year after.

"Combining the extra \$20 million with the additional money already promised in the election campaign will result in almost 25,000 extra Queenslanders receiving elective surgery and other procedures within the timeframes recommended by doctors.

"Despite rising health costs and widespread shortages of health professionals, the Smart State's excellent medical teams have maintained Queensland's position as the state with the shortest elective surgery waiting times," said Mr Beattie.

Mr Nuttall said that in 2004 Queensland Health professionals treated an additional 4793 patients on top of their normal surgical workloads in stage one of the \$110 million program.

"This shows the commitment of Queensland Health staff to continue delivering effective health care in this state," he said.

"Through advances in detection and diagnostic techniques, many procedures previously performed as invasive surgery are now performed through 'hi-tech' procedures and treatments.

"These procedures allow our health professionals to detect, diagnose and provide treatment earlier, providing a far better outcome for our patients."

Mr Nuttall said the extra \$20 million would be invested in treatments such as:

- colonoscopies, which allow early detection and treatment of bowel conditions and minimise the need for more radical surgery
- stents and hole-in-the heart treatments, which ease heart and vascular conditions without the need for open surgery
- key-hole surgery, which allows gall bladder and other abdominal operations to be performed with less pain, less risk and improved recovery
- vascular access surgery for patients with chronic renal failure.

Experts set for Winter School

Drs Mark and Linda Sobell, renowned international experts on motivational interviewing and controlled drinking are two keynote speakers at the 2005 Australian Winter School.

The Winter School, to be held at the Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane, from 4-7 July will feature international keynote speakers, practical workshops, posters and presentations.

The school will address the issues of drugs, lifestyle and culture in the context of practical application of research and policy for those working in service delivery agencies.

Other keynote speakers include Professor Steve Rollnick, Professor of Healthcare Communication, Cardiff University; and Dr Karen Brooks, author and media personality.

Dr Lynden Bauer, a non-smoking advocate, will address the treatment of tobacco addiction with the integration of advocating for reduced tobacco use.

Dr Maggie Brady will be discussing the impact of Indigenous culture on the provision of alcohol and drug services.

Contact: The Winter School Secretariat, phone 3834 0211 or web: www.winterschool.info

Receive Health Matters regularly

If you, your friends or colleagues would like to be placed on the Health Matters mailing list phone Public Affairs, Queensland Health, on 3234 1135 or fax your details to 3234 1909.

From the Chief Nursing Advisor, Jillian Jeffery



It has been almost four months (at the time of writing) since I started as Queensland's first Chief Nursing Advisor (CNA).

The opportunity to establish the position as CNA is important and meaningful giving nurses a voice straight to the Director-General and the Minister of Health.

Having direct access at this level is integral to the functions of the role of CNA; the new organisational structure is available on QHEPS for further information.

"Nursing Matters" will now be a regular part in Health Matters where you will be kept up to date on significant nursing projects including the Nurse Practitioner Project and others.

We have reported in this edition on some aspects of the national approach to Magnet Hospitals, specifically in relation to Princess Alexandra Hospital. This approach internationally has proven to work well to attract and retain nurses.

I have taken the opportunity to travel to as many places as possible in the first 3-4 months and speak with as many of you as I could about the role of CNA. It has been a really valuable thing to do and to receive such positive feedback about the introduction of this position and I acknowledge the wonderful work that you do.

Firstly, this has given me the opportunity to 'scope' this new position and secondly has allowed me to discuss first hand with nurses what you want the position of CNA to be doing.

One of the primary roles is as the interface between the Minister, Director-General, department, public, private and academic sectors of the nursing profession.

The strategic development and promotion of nursing is best achieved through the formation of collaborative relationships at all levels.

The challenges of nursing in the future will be overcome by the application of our common goals and shared interests.

Magnet recognition puts PA on the map

In a "first" for Australia, nurses at Princess Alexandra Hospital have put Queensland on the map as the smart state for excellence in nursing care.

A plaque of recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC), confirming Princess Alexandra Hospital as a Magnet Hospital, was unveiled last month by Jillian Jeffery, Queensland Health Chief Nursing Advisor.

The program was developed by the Credentialing Centre in the early 1990s and over the past 10 years, 114 American hospitals have been successful in gaining Magnet recognition.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District is the only international site outside of the USA recognised as a Magnet service.

Jillian congratulated nursing staff for their willingness to have an external review of practice standards and professional leadership by such an eminent group

as the ANCC.

She said that hospitals which had achieved Magnet recognition were generally recognised as world's best nursing practice organisations.

The hard work began at the PA Hospital nearly two years ago.

Since then more than 100 Magnet "Nursing Champions" from within all wards and departments across the hospital have reviewed policies, procedures, work practices and protocols, to ensure nursing standards were the highest possible.

The accreditation process involved a three-day site visit by a team of three nursing leaders from the USA, together with two nursing leaders from Australia who acted in an advisory capacity.

There were 14 standards against which the Nursing Division was assessed, covering areas of assessment and planning through to identification of outcomes, quality improvement, education, collegiality, ethics research and collaboration.

In order to remain current, an annual internal review will take place within the hospital, and in 2008 a further accreditation process will be undertaken by a team from the USA.

From left, Jenny Andrews, Acting Nursing Director, Division of Surgery; Jillian Jeffery, Queensland Health Chief Nursing Advisor; Gillian Ray-Barruel, Clinical Nurse Intensive Care Unit; and Sandy Blake, Nursing Director, Mental Health.



Seven researchers awarded grants

Seven researchers have been successful in the inaugural 2005 Queensland Health nursing research grants.

The State Government allocated \$100,000 as an election commitment to sponsor nursing research projects. These grants build on money available for undergraduate and post-graduate nursing scholarships.

Principal Nursing Adviser, Sue Norrie, said “the grants support nurses commitment to continually improving the quality of nursing practice by encouraging nurses to become active participants in nursing research”.

“Most importantly, the grants contribute to the development of new knowledge and skills to improve patient outcomes,” she said.

Applications for research grants are open to all nurses and midwives employed by Queensland Health for both experienced and novice nurse researchers.

The successful experienced researcher grants applicants were Tony Limpus, Princess Alexandra Hospital, and Samantha Keogh, Royal Children’s Hospital.

Tony is to undertake a pilot study to determine the effect of graduated compression stocking length and body position on femoral venous blood flow velocity in the critical ill.

Samantha is to undertake an intervention study regarding the standardising of sedation management in paediatric intensive care.

The successful novice researcher grants were Helen Green, Gold Coast Hospital; Adele Baldwin, Townsville Hospital; Monika Buhner Skinner, Townsville Community Health; Katrina Jess, Mater Children’s Hospital; and Mary Fenn, from Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.

Helen will be undertaking a telephone survey of post natal women to assist in the developing of benchmarks and provision of information for service delivery and discharge planning.

Adele will be studying the perceptions of women with gynaecological cancer of a partner support program in rural and remote North Queensland.

Monika will be undertaking a study into the prevalence of Chlamydia Trachomatis infection in different segments of the Townsville/Thuringowa community.

Katrina will be undertaking a comparative study of Tobromycin level sampling from central venous access devices versus peripheral blood sampling.

Mary will be reviewing the impact of a screening assessment and care planning model for at risk older patients presenting to the emergency department.

In addition to the research grants, Queensland Health has offered 71 scholarships this year to both registered and enrolled nurses for nursing scholarships.

These scholarships aim to encourage professional development in nursing by providing monetary assistance to nurses undertaking post-graduate or post-registration nursing studies.

Areas of study for the upcoming year include intensive care nursing, emergency nursing, child and family health, midwifery, paediatric nursing, research and diabetes education.

Information regarding the nursing research grants and the scholarships, can be found on the Health Advisory Unit (Nursing) QHEPS site.

Walk on the cyber side

A cyberspace walk from Coolangatta to Cairns is a feature of the annual fit4fun charity walk being held by the Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation in Brisbane on 16 April.

The walk starts at South Bank Parklands from 3pm and caters for all ages and fitness levels.

The cyber walk challenge is a coordinated program for teams, with the number of steps being counted by team members using a pedometer to track their progress along a cyber map of Queensland.

As they travel north towards Cairns, they will receive interesting facts about each destination, travel specials,

trivia, health and fitness tips, and the chance to win prizes.

Team members can register on line for \$20 and they will receive a pedometer free, with all funds raised going to support sick and injured children at the Royal Children’s Hospital.

The walk will conclude with a Healthy Lifestyle Expo, including demonstrations, activities, food stalls and live entertainment.

Contact: www.fit4fun.com.au or phone the RCH Foundation on 3852 1199.



What they didn't tell you — a look at major issues in the media

AMAQ's 'public hospital black spot audit'

Nurses role in child safety reforms

At the very moment when the AMAQ's media alert went out to invite Brisbane media to a press conference the following day to attack the public health system, it was ironic that the AMAQ executive was sitting in a monthly meeting with the Acting Director General Dr John Scott.

When the alert was taken into the meeting by a Queensland Health employee, the AMAQ did not wish to expand on the matter.

Nor had they raised any issue within the report, at this, or any other monthly meeting with senior Queensland Health staff.

The AMAQ would not provide any more information in the same-day meeting with the Health Minister

Gordon Nuttall.

The Minister admitted to media there had been 'a very spirited discussion over the matter, but no, the AMAQ did not provide me with any details of the report'.

So for seemingly 'urgent' matters the Government needed to attend to, the AMAQ did not see fit to raise them in any forum, and certainly not before it discussed them with the media.

Queensland Health did not receive a copy of the report until after the following day's press conference, and 24 hours after the AMAQ furnished the Courier-Mail with a copy of the executive summary of the report.

Queensland Health's response to the AMAQ's 'audit' is on QHEPS and the Queensland Health internet site.

By now most nurses will be aware that Queensland Government child safety reforms have resulted in legislative changes for registered nurses.

The legislative changes, which come into effect on 31 August, make it mandatory for registered nurses to report directly to the Department of Child Safety all incidences where there is a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

See the Queensland Nursing Forum Dec. 2004 p23; Child Safety Unit QHEPS site - http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/csu/pdf/CSU_Factsheet_9.pdf.

The current *Queensland Health Policy Statement and Guidelines on the treatment and management of abuse and neglect of children and young people (0-18 years)* is being revised in relation to the legislation changes.

It will be available through the Queensland Health Child Safety Unit QHEPS site when completed.

The Queensland Health Child Safety Unit (established as a part of the whole of Government priority for the protection of Queensland children) will be providing education and training specifically to registered nurses on the legislative changes.

The "roll-out" plan for the education and training will be staged. The immediate responsibility will be the changes

for registered nurses that comes into effect from 31 August. Information on these changes will be provided in a number of satellite broadcasts.

The dates and time for the broadcasts are; Tuesday 15 March and Tuesday 12 April (2.30-3.15pm). Both sessions will be videotaped and made available for replay in all Queensland Health facilities.

The development of nurses and other clinical staff working with children and families is viewed as an essential workforce development strategy if suspected child abuse and neglect are identified and reported.

Training in this area is to be provided in both an e-learning and paper-based format.

It is expected that these programs will be available by May.

Both university undergraduate and postgraduate curricula are to be targeted to ensure that child safety education is appropriately represented in these courses.

The Queensland Health Child Safety Unit is working with representatives from each health service district to develop local plans for staff to access the information and training around suspected child abuse and neglect.

Contact: Child Safety Unit (Queensland Health) phone 3235 9461, e-mail csu@health.qld.gov.au

2005
timeframes for articles

email: rossi@health.qld.gov.au

edition	closing date
April	4 March 2005
May	8 April 2005
June	6 May 2005
July	3 June 2005

New field for nursing



Nurse practitioners Jean Bratby (left) in discussion with Sharyn Plath

Cardiology experts address challenge

An nursing project new to the emergency departments of three hospitals in the Redcliffe-Caboolture District is expected to deliver better and more timely care for patients.

Dr John Scott, Queensland Health's Senior Executive Director, Health Services, said nurse practitioners had been appointed at Redcliffe, Caboolture and Kilcoy hospitals.

"A nurse practitioner is a highly qualified nurse performing some tasks previously only done by doctors," he said.

"Nurse practitioners, who work very closely according to health protocols with their medical and other colleagues, are able, for example, to order diagnostic tests, refer patients to specialists and in some cases prescribe medication.

"If this demonstration project goes to plan, patients will be the big winners, as the work done by nurse practitioners frees up doctors to concentrate on more complex procedures and cases.

"Importantly, their work also allows much better use of clinical skills which are in worldwide short supply.

"This is an exciting, ground-breaking project, an innovative approach that has the potential of placing Queensland in a position to lead the country in health workforce reform."

The nurses chosen are Sharyn Plath at Redcliffe Hospital; Jean Bratby at Caboolture Hospital, and Jose McCool at

Kilcoy Hospital.

Sharyn Plath has been nursing for 26 years, primarily with Queensland Health, and has had 16 years of emergency nursing experience.

She obtained her Bachelor of Nursing at Queensland University of Technology, followed by an Honours year researching the role of nurse practitioners in emergency departments.

Sharyn has a graduate certificate in intercultural studies majoring in international health and development from Tabor College in Adelaide.

Jean Bratby has been nursing for more than 30 years with 15 years of emergency experience.

She has a Masters of Emergency Nursing and holds the substantive position of Nurse Educator with responsibility for the emergency department in the Redcliffe-Caboolture Health Service District.

Jean is an executive member of the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia, Queensland Branch.

Jose McCool has worked extensively for Queensland Health in rural and remote areas for 25 years. For the past six years Jose has been Director of Nursing at Kilcoy Hospital.

Each will be closely following clinical guidelines developed by Queensland Health in conjunction with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Three Queensland Health doctors are among the keynote speakers at the Challenges in Cardiology V, a major two day Queensland cardiology conference, to be held at the Wesley Hospital auditorium on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 May.

They are Dr Peter Tesar, Cardiac Surgeon, Prince Charles Hospital, Professor John Dunning, Head of Cardiology, Prince Charles Hospital, and Dr Noel Hayman, Director, Indigenous Health, Inala Community Health Centre.

The conference is being held by the National Heart

Foundation of Australia (Queensland Division), the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (Queensland Branch), the Queensland Cardiac Rehabilitation Association and the Wesley Hospital.

The conference will focus on assessing risk, absolute risk and reducing risk in heart disease; and cardiovascular health of Indigenous Australians.

Contact: Rachele Foreman, Heart Foundation (Queensland Division), phone 3854 1696 or e-mail: qld@heartfoundation.com.au

Better resource use aids mothers

Roma Hospital Maternity Ward staff have shown that expanding – and improving – services does not have to mean spending more money. Sometimes, all it takes is a vision, ingenuity and a little strategic thinking.

The Maternity Ward recently extended its services to provide a lactation clinic for new mothers, all for an additional overall cost of \$16 to cover the cost of stationary and photocopying.

The new service links to a number of goals on Roma Health Districts strategy map by targeting better use of resources, implementing ‘Best Practice Health Promotion’, and working more closely with local general practitioners and other health partners.

These objectives were identified during the ISAP process.

Information and resources were assembled by Karene Carra and Debra Dunstan, the Clinic Nurse of Maternity Ward.

Karene Carra, Nurse Unit Manager and midwife, said the clinic is one the goals she had for the Roma Maternity Ward since being appointed to the position 18 months ago.

“By providing extra support and encouragement we hope to see more women continue to breastfeed their babies once they get home,” said Karene.

Encouraging new mothers to breastfeed their babies is one of the focuses of Queensland Health’s strategic intent to promote healthier people and communities.

“New mothers have a lot to take on board during the first days after giving birth, and a lot of information can be forgotten,” said Karene.

“We’re working with local GPs, the child health nurse

and the Australian Breastfeeding Association to get the word out about the new clinic.

“The clinic reinforces information they were given while in hospital and also gives us an opportunity to provide support and advice in a more relaxed and comfortable setting.”

The attending midwife conducts an antenatal clinic in the morning and the lactation clinic in the afternoon.

During the clinic they review a video on physiology and anatomy and talk about the benefits of breastfeeding for both mum and baby. The attending midwife observes them feeding their babies, identifies any difficulties they may be having, and helps correct them.

Karene said the long-term health benefits to breastfed babies was well documented.

“Research has shown that breast feeding can provide valuable protection against infections, allergies and food intolerances,” she said.

“There is evidence to suggest that breast milk may increase the likelihood of earlier motor development, result in a better rate of cognitive development and improve the quality of mother and baby interaction.

“Mums who breastfeed their babies may benefit through a reduced risk of pre-menopausal breast cancer, ovarian cancer or type 2 diabetes.

“The World Health Organisation and the National Health and Medical Research Council recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a baby’s life, when possible.”

For more information see Optimal Infant Nutrition: Evidence Based Guidelines under Policies and Publications on the Child and Youth Health Unit website.

Team Foxtrot’s dedication lauded

Queensland’s Health Support Team Foxtrot was welcomed home by Health Minister Gordon Nuttall, family and friends when they returned from last month from Aceh.

The 25-strong team of doctors, nurses, environmental officers and emergency services personnel returned to Brisbane after two weeks assisting in tsunami-stricken Aceh.

“The team has played an invaluable role in assisting victims of a disaster which has cost hundreds of thousands of lives across Asia,” Mr Nuttall said.

“I would just like to thank team members on behalf of the Queensland Government, firstly for their volunteering for this role and secondly for tireless efforts in helping the

victims of this tragedy.”

Team Foxtrot, which was led by Ipswich doctor Vlas Efsthatis, was also met by Health Acting Director General, Dr John Scott, who was in regular contact with team members.

“Feedback has been that the team contributed enormously to the aid program,” Dr Scott said.

“I welcome them back and hope they have benefited as much from the experience as the people they volunteered to assist.”

The Queensland Government also donated \$10 million to an international appeal to aid tsunami victims.

Online child health advice a real 'hit'

The online Child Health Resource Centre, organised by the Royal Children's Hospital's Community Child Health Service, has proved to be a valued source of child health information for parents and health professionals.

This internet site provides access for parents and health professionals to a wide range of reliable information on child health, child development and parenting.

Since it went 'live' in November 2003, the site has generated an average of 5500 hits from the public each month, reaching a maximum of 9000 hits one month.

The online resource centre complements the existing services offered by CCHS that assist parents and carers in their challenging task of nurturing their children, from newborns through to teens.

CCHS Executive Director, Dr Neil Wigg, said the benefits of the online resource centre lies in its ability to provide consistent, high quality child health information to a wide-reaching audience in a cost-effective manner.

"Through this website, our staff can now provide valuable information on a wide range of child health issues to parents and health professionals right throughout the state without the costs of producing or posting hard-copy documents," Dr Wigg said.

"Parents and health professionals can regularly refer to the site to ensure they are getting the most up-to-date

information, rather than relying on a printed fact-sheet or brochure that may be outdated by some months or even years."

The site provides access to current information on nutrition, parenting, growth and development, behaviour, common conditions and safety and immunisation, together with contact details of community-based services and support groups available.

Fact sheets on infant and toddler feeding, managing challenging behaviour and positive parenting programs tend to be the most popular of all the resources on offer.

Dr Melissa Krawczyk, a Brisbane-based general practitioner and mother to a two year old son, said that she often referred to the site herself, as well as referring patients to it.

"There is so much information out there on the Net on parenting and child health, it can be difficult for a parent to know if they're accessing accurate, credible information," she said.

"If any of my patients want to seek out further information on any child health topic, I can confidently refer them to the Child Health Resource Centre site as a consistent, high quality source of information".

The website, which is regularly updated, is www.health.qld.gov.au/cchs

Training boosts service



Home care workers develop a special rapport with their clients.

A special training course at Moreton TAFE is helping home care workers deliver a better and broader service to people in their homes on Brisbane's southside.

About 25 home care workers from the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Health Service District have been studying the course, which has given them new skills for their changing professional environment.

The home care workers assist the frail aged and younger disabled people to live independently in their own homes.

Home Care Service Manager Trish Kimball said that these days home care workers did much more than just washing patients and cleaning homes.

"They are offering a more holistic service to those who may often be comparatively isolated within their homes," she said.

"These people, for one reason or another, have difficulty coping with activities of daily living.

"Trish said the home care workers will continue to help clean the homes they visited, but will also be able to

undertake additional tasks.

"They will also be looking to see if the people they are visiting may require other specialist help.

"They are regularly visiting homes, so they have the chance to observe the general well-being of the aged or disabled people they are assisting."

Trish said that with the TAFE training the home care workers will now be able to identify signs of distress or other issues affecting a person's health.

"They may notice something like a broken fridge that could be creating dietary problems for the person concerned, or bruising which could indicate a recent fall."

Trish said the home care workers were undertaking nationally accredited training in awareness to focus on such matters as part of the Moreton TAFE course.

She said they were not being trained to provide follow-on services.

"Their job will be to identify possible problem areas and to report those things to specialists who will then provide assistance as required," Trish said.

Youths explore careers in health

An innovative project that aims to help attract and excite young people into a future career in health is being spearheaded by West Moreton Health.

The ExCiHTE project is short for Exploring Careers in Health through Training and Education).

It is based on a program developed by West Moreton, in conjunction with Southern Zone Indigenous Workforce Strategy, to encourage high school students to explore options that can bring them into a health career.

More than 30 Indigenous students from years 10 to 12 in the West Moreton area have already taken part in the project through clever Taste Test days, sampling “bite sized” examples of different health jobs and professions at various health sites.

Students from schools such as St Edmund’s, Bundamba State High, Bremer State High and St Mary’s ‘chose their own adventure’, selecting different streams such as maternity nursing or occupational therapy, with staff from areas pitching in to help lead tours and explain their jobs to the students.

Babies were a huge hit with students, as was the mental health and nutrition.

Other areas such as trades and hospitality featured strongly, with the behind the scenes trades tour and the kitchen tour popular choices.

Another important aspect of the day was the ‘chat time’ over a picnic lunch with a number of West Moreton’s Indig-

enous staff, who shared their diverse cultural, educational and vocational experiences that have led them to a career in health.

Coordinators of the fledgling ExCiHTE program and pilot Taste Test, Judith Milliken and Kate Harris, said the activities had drawn significant positive comments from students and health and education planners.

They said the ExCiHTE program was being explored for application in other districts.

“Taste Tests are certainly a novel way to get students thinking about the huge variety of careers that fall under the health banner,” Kate said.

“Kids have told us that they think much more positively about getting into a health career and they have a better understanding about how hard they have to work at school, TAFE or uni to reach their goal.”

Judith said that following the positive pilot test, there had been a lot of support in other districts to see the Taste Tests lead to a second stepping stone.

She said this involved select industry placement at a health facility, and could establish some clear pathways into health.

She said students of this age were really interested in their careers and wanted to meet and be mentored by people who could help demonstrate the opportunities and challenges of working in health.

Work progressing on North West



Futuristic model of the completed North West Community Health Centre.

Work on Keperra’s North West Community Health Centre is progressing well with the centre set to open in a few months.

The \$5 million North West Community Health Centre, built on the site of the former Keperra Hospital, involves the renovation of the existing building and the construction of a significant new extension.

The centre will have 65 permanent staff (full and part-time), 10 visiting staff and 15 volunteers.

It is being developed to bring together a range of health services from three different health service districts in one location for the people of Brisbane’s north west suburbs.

Districts include the Royal Brisbane and Royal Women’s Hospital, Royal Children’s Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service Districts

The centre, which provides a large range of services to children, adults and families. will offer a range of community health services including Indigenous health, home and community care, child health, child development, child and youth mental health, self-care independent haemodialysis, visiting women’s services, and other visiting services.

It will also bring together services which are currently

located in separate facilities.

These include the Ashgrove Child Health Centre, the Everton Park Child Development Unit, the Child and Youth Mental Health Service at Enoggera and the Ashgrove Adult Community Health Service at Enoggera.

The centre has been designed with some key features to make the facility as community friendly as possible. Child friendly play areas are located both inside and outside the building, near the client waiting area.

An Indigenous garden is being planned for the centre, as well as built in art work that will reflect the values of the surrounding community.

Keperra derives its name from the Aboriginal word “kipper” meaning your man or boy.

Today, nearly half the Indigenous youth population in North Brisbane live in the local area.

District Manager of The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District, Gloria Wallace, said the refurbished centre will allow the districts to work together in providing clients with a range of quality health care services in the one central location.

Diagnostic imaging brilliance a world leader

The international standing of The Prince Charles Hospital as a world leader in specialist heart care has been confirmed with the introduction of the most sophisticated diagnostic imaging system available worldwide.

The Prince Charles is the first hospital in the world to purchase the \$1.6 million *Brilliance CT 40-channel system*.

"The Brilliance system is a specialised, state-of-the-art imaging system that allows patients to receive safer, speedier and more detailed diagnoses for a range of serious health conditions," said Health Minister Gordon Nuttall said.

"It allows health professionals to produce exceptional images of the whole human body, as well as images of fast moving organs such as the heart.

"It is hoped that the scanner will eventually allow for diagnosis in areas that have traditionally required more invasive procedures such as coronary angiography."

Dr Richard Slaughter, Chair of The Prince Charles Hospital Medical Imaging Department, said the 40-channel Brilliance system could produce up to 100 images of the body per second.

"The revolutionary speed of the system is significantly faster than the hospital's current CT system, and the quality of the images produced are particularly vital in diagnosing and treating life threatening conditions," he said.

"Cardiac imaging and trauma investigation can be performed rapidly and efficiently, reducing the amount of time the patient spends in the medical imaging department."

"The system employs special dose reduction features that monitor and limit the amount of radiation the patient is exposed to therefore reducing the risk to the patient.

"By the middle of this year, when new technology becomes available, it will be upgraded to a 64-channel system, the highest specification system available in the world.

Philips Medical Systems, manufacturers of the high tech system, say the Brilliance CT system is designed specifically for leading edge and research oriented institutions like The Prince Charles Hospital.

The Prince Charles Hospital is one of only four Australian centres performing both heart and lung transplants.

The Transplant Service, under the leadership of Dr Keith McNeil, is renowned for its internationally experienced staff and clinical excellence.

The Prince Charles Hospital performed its first heart transplant in 1990 and first lung transplant in 1996.

In 2003, the service was involved in Australia's first heart-lung-liver transplant with surgeons from The Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Visiting service aids young people

Young people at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre are benefiting from a health service that recognises the link between mental health and drug and alcohol abuse.

The Mental Health Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Service is a visiting service from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital providing mental health assessment and treatment, drug and alcohol motivational interviews and counselling sessions to the young people at the detention centre.

The service also contributes to the Suicide and Self Harm Minimisation program, coordinated by the centre's Health Service.

A recent analysis of admissions to the centre shows that more than 60 per cent of young people admitted were seen by the service on at least one occasion in the past year. Detention centre Acting Manager Alan Farrell said it is the first time in Queensland that integrated mental health and drug and alcohol treatment was available in the one service.

"This is particularly important for young people in detention who often experience both difficulties," Alan said.

The service is jointly funded by the Department of Communities and Queensland Health.

The centre's Acting Health Service Coordinator Paul Bradbury said drug and alcohol issues could trigger particular types of acute and chronic mental health problems.

"Our clinical nursing staff are aware of this and, after an initial assessment during the admission process, refer young people to the service," Paul said.

"The service team has developed its service model and refined the options available to young people to produce a professional, culturally inclusive and youth focussed service."

Two psychologists, two social workers, one consulting psychiatrist and administration staff make up the team. The psychiatrist visits twice a week and is available on call and the psychologists and social workers run daily clinics from Monday to Friday.

Brisbane Youth Detention Centre Acting Manager Alan Farrell presents a certificate of appreciation to Denise Best, Director of Mental Health Services at the Royal Brisbane Hospital



Wondai's super kitchen

A new super kitchen to cater for Queensland Health's hospitals and aged care nursing homes throughout the South Burnett is to be included in the Wondai Health Service Redevelopment.

South Burnett Health Service Acting District Manager, Jeff Potter, said the new production kitchen would supply the catering needs across the South Burnett Health Service District with capacity for future growth.

"The production kitchen at Wondai Hospital and improvements to receiving kitchens will cost \$2.3 million," he said.

"It will provide catering for the public hospitals in Kingaroy, Wondai, Cherbourg, Murgon and Nanango, nursing homes at Kingaroy and Wondai and other health care services.

"The production kitchen is part of the \$15.2 million Wondai Health Service Redevelopment, a major project for the South Burnett.

"The concept of a production kitchen was one of the ideas that emerged when we went to the community seeking input on providing more efficient health services."

South Burnett Health Service District's Director of Corporate Services, Linda South, said the new production kitchen was an exciting opportunity for the South Burnett.

"We believe this production kitchen will be a first for Queensland Health as we are leading the way with a new

approach to catering in rural areas," she said.

"Other districts throughout the State will be closely watching how well it works."

South Burnett Health Service Manager of District Support Services, Jill McKiggan, said staff were working with the project architects and consultants on the detailed design of the new production kitchen.

"Everything will be new with state-of-the-art equipment and surfaces," she said,

"It means we will be able to incorporate best practice in food services including food technologies, standards and quality.

"It is intended to prepare food and transport it in specially designed vehicles to maintain temperature control and hygiene standards.

"This will ensure that there is no loss of quality during delivery. It will be a complex logistical exercise, but we are confident everyone will be more than pleased with the quality of food we prepare and deliver from this new facility."

With the establishment of the new kitchen, all food preparation will be centralised in Wondai, but none of the existing catering staff at hospitals and nursing homes will lose employment.

Work on the \$15.2 million Wondai Health Service Redevelopment, including the new super kitchen, is expected to start later this year and be completed late next year.

Scientists making a healthy splash

Scientists at the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology, based at Queensland Health Scientific Services, are making moves to reduce the risk to humans from toxins in water.

The centre is conducting research through consultation with the water industry and health authorities to produce information and resources that will assist with management of toxins in water.

The research will be used to provide new information for human health risk assessments, and assist water authorities develop successful tools for water management in Queensland.

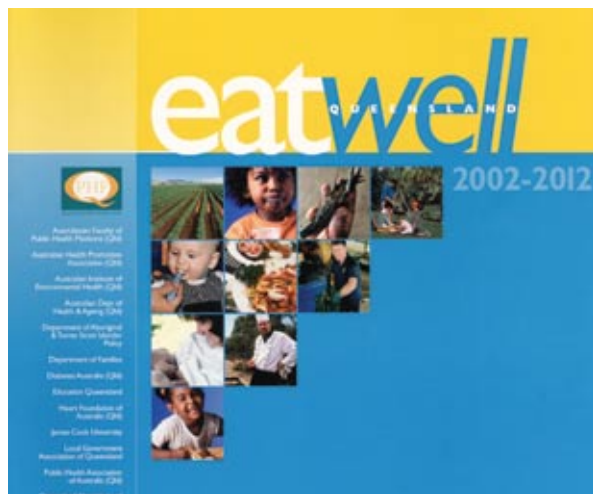
Dr Glen Shaw, National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology said: "By ensuring there are appropriate mechanisms in place for evaluating water quality, we are going a long way to protect public health.

"We are coordinating our research program with the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment (CRC) Toxicology Program and with other programs being run by the CRC to produce results that are relevant to human health. These programs are related to sustainability, epidemiology, treatment and measurement."

Dr Shaw said the covered ecological exposure to cylindrospermopsis raciborskii (an algae producing a water soluble toxin), recreational exposure to blue-green algae, cylindrospermopsis toxicity and genotoxicity, identification of bacteria that are capable of removing of cylindrospermopsis, screening assays for aquatic toxicants, disinfection byproducts studies, and micropollutants.

"This program provides opportunities for Queensland Health's reputation in public health research to be internationally recognised," he said.

Schools lead way to healthy eating



Encouraging children to eat healthier food is the aim of the Queensland Health Eat Well Queensland: Smart Eating for a Healthier State promotion.

The promotion outlines a public health strategy to improve the health and well-being of Queenslanders through better food and nutrition.

As part of this strategy, children have been identified as a priority group and schools have been identified as a target setting.

Several schools in the Redcliffe-Caboolture Health Service District have taken on this challenge with gusto and are leading the way to promote good practices in healthy eating and physical activity to the children in their care.

Caboolture State School, has embraced the “Tooty Fruity Vege” program.

This program aims to increase children’s consumption of fruit and vegetables through an all of school health promotion model.

Caboolture State School has implemented many strategies including working with the tuckshop to modify the menu to increase the range of fruit and vegetables on offer, and reduce the number of less nutritious menu choices.

They have introduced fruit and vegetable activities into the curriculum, a regular nutrition spot in the newsletter, and a “kids in the kitchen” cooking program that is run by parent volunteers for all year levels.

The Parent and Citizens is actively behind the program

and has reviewed the ways they fundraise and promote the school so that it has a healthy food focus.

The school promotional brochure includes a paragraph about the TFV program and the school’s commitment to the health of its students.

They also changed the major school fundraiser from a chocolate drive to a mango drive and doubled their profits.

Several other schools are also leading the way.

As part of the Deception Bay Community Renewal project, four schools in the Deception Bay region have identified nutrition as one of the key priority issues for their school and are undertaking various strategies to address the issues.

Deception Bay North State School and Christ the King Primary School in particular, will be undertaking a wide range of strategies to address nutrition issues in their schools, following a comprehensive review of their current needs.

Moreton Downs State School is already underway with an impressive permaculture garden that is fully supported by its Year 2 teachers and students and the generosity of local community organisations and retailers.

The primary schools are not alone in their quest to promote healthy eating. Morayfield High School is undergoing a complete overhaul of their canteen with the full support of the convenor, Parents and Citizens, principal and staff.

They are fully embracing the “healthy canteen” concept, and will have a model canteen by the time they are finished.

BreastScreen schedule

Queensland Health, through the BreastScreen Queensland Program, provides dedicated and accredited breast cancer screening services through a statewide network of screening and assessment services.

Scheduled services:

Mobile Services

Toowoomba: 14-24 March, Millmerran; 30 March-May, Goondiwindi.

Townsville: Until 11 March, North Ward; 21 March-27 May, Ingham.

North Brisbane: 1-21 March, Banyo Library, Banyo; 22 March-8 April Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Herston.

Rockhampton: Until end of March, Gladstone.

Relocatable Services

Toowoomba: until April, Dalby.

Bundaberg: Until 4 March, Mundubbera; 5-11 March Eidsvold; 15 March-12 April, Monto; 13 April – 13 May, Biggenden.

Cairns: Until May, Atherton;

Gold Coast: Until 7 April, Palm Beach.

Nambour: Until 18 March, Maroochydore.

New services have been opened at Hervey Bay and the Brisbane City at Shop 11, City Plaza.

Women can arrange a free breast screen by calling 13 20 50, for the cost of a local call, and will be connected to their nearest BreastScreen Queensland Service. Individual and group bookings are also available.

Contact: Cancer Screening Services Unit on 3234 1596.

Nursing trial to aid terminally ill



Palliative care expertise to terminally ill people will be provided by a nursing practitioner in a trial project throughout Brisbane's Southside.

Kris McAnelly, an experienced palliative care nurse working with the Brisbane South Palliative Care Service, is in the process of developing the nurse practitioner role specific to palliative care.

Dr John Scott, Queensland Health's Senior Director, Health Services, said that Kris would assist with the specialised care and support of residents who are in the advanced stage of a terminal illness in nursing homes.

He said Kris would be covered by the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Health Service District.

Kris McAnelly in discussion with a palliative care patient.

He said care would be provided in accordance with health protocols developed in collaboration with their medical colleagues and would provide complementary services to those of medical practitioners.

"Kris will be able to respond quickly and effectively to residents' needs to achieve best patient outcomes and be able to reassure families that their relatives are well cared for," Dr Scott said.

"An objective of her role will be to decrease the number of unnecessary admissions to acute care hospitals.

"If this trial project goes to plan, patients will benefit, as the work done by nurse practitioners should result in more effective use of both medical and nursing skills."

Smooth talking helps stutterers

People who stutter can live in fear of the phone ringing, avoid speaking in front of groups or choose jobs where there is little contact with people. Help is on the way to make smooth talking a new way for stutterers through a Speak Easy Booster course in Toowoomba.

The course, which aims to change the lives of participants and ensure they maintain optimum fluency, is presented by the Speak Easy Support Group (a group established by people who stutter to assist people who stutter) and Toowoomba Hospital.

Toowoomba Hospital Director of Speech Pathology, Gai Rollings, said the Speak Easy Support Group performed an invaluable role in the lives of people who stutter.

"The course is specifically for people who had received speech pathology treatment for stuttering and needed an intensive refresher course," she said.

"We're grateful to the Speak Easy Support Group for organising this course and for their constant support of our work – they help people to maintain their skills and confi-

dence in speaking."

Toowoomba Hospital Speech Pathologist, Jane Gaydon, who worked with the Speak Easy Support Group to organise the course, said group members felt sure there were many people in the community who stutter but were not seeking help.

"Speech pathologists help stutterers by teaching a technique called 'smooth speech'," she said.

"Most stutterers are now able to speak fluently because of the fact that they have learned smooth speech."

Jane said there was much debate in the health industry on the cause of stuttering, but the latest literature indicated that there was a genetic component and problems with the muscles of speech.

She said the speech course participants had an intensive two days of speech exercise and activities; speaking in front of groups, interviewing each other, making phone calls and practicing speech for emergency and/or stressful situations.

Orientation for rural life

Two three-day rural orientation workshops for Queensland international medical graduates doctors are being held at the Diana Hotel Plaza, Woolloongabba, Brisbane.

The workshops are being organised by Health Workforce Queensland, part of a network of rural workforce agencies within Australia funded by the Australian Government to support rural and remote doctors of Queensland.

The workshops will be held from 8am-5pm, Tuesday 26

to Thursday 28 April, and 8am-5pm, Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 May.

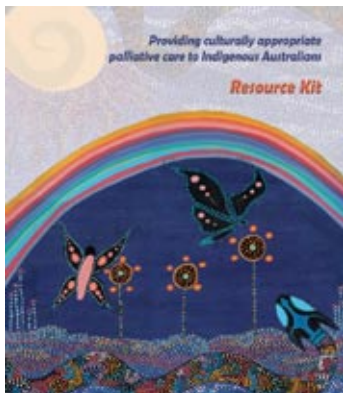
The program has been designed for the international medical graduates who have been in Australia for less than 12 months.

Contact: Medical Education and Training Team, phone: 3105 7800, e-mail: met@healthworkforce.com.au or web: www.healthworkforce.com.au and go to the ME & T section.

Inaugural child health conference

World congress on pain study

Palliative care kit aids communities



The inaugural Innovations in Paediatric, Child Youth and Mental Health Practice Conference will be held at the Royal Children's Hospital on 12 May.

The conference, organised by the Royal Children's Hospital and Health Service District Brisbane, Nursing Outreach, is being held as part of International Nurses Day.

It will be held at the hospital auditorium, Floor 5,

The 11th World Congress on Pain, organised by the International Association for the Study of Pain, will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre on 21-26 August.

The congress is open to people working in or interested in any aspects of acute pain, chronic pain, or cancer pain, including research and treatment.

Sixteen half-day refresher course, including reviews of clinical and basic science problems, will be held the day before the opening of the scientific program.

Contact: Congress Secretariat, 11th World Congress on

Woolworth's Medical Building, from 8am to 4.30pm. Guest speakers are Dr Jeanine Young, Royal Children's Hospital and Health Service District; Dr Jane Noyes, Manchester University, England; and Judith Ellis, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, England.

Abstracts for the conference should be submitted to Bronwyn Murphy, phone 3636 5346, fax 3636 1965, or e-mail Bronwyn_Murphy@health.qld.gov.au

Pain, Tour Hosts Pty Ltd, GPO Box 128, Sydney NSW 2001, phone (02) 9248 0800, fax: (02) 9248 0894, e-mail: iasp2005@tourhosts.com.au

The congress will be preceded on 18-19 August by Partners in Pain: Patients, Clinicians, and Pain Management Conference at the convention centre on 18-19 August.

The conference includes speakers who have had first hand experience as patients, as well as speakers from the field of medicine, nursing, pharmacology and sociology.

Contact: www.pinp@dcconferences.com.au/pinp2005

A resource kit, "Providing culturally appropriate palliative care to Indigenous Australians", has become available for anyone working in providing palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their carers, families and communities.

The North Queensland Workforce Unit is currently undertaking a six month Project to:

- enhance access to the resource kit and website among Queensland Health palliative care service providers
- encourage feedback from recipients of the resource kit on how the kit may be improved, how it may be used, and suggestions for additional educational resources.
- introduce and evaluate the resource kit within the Rural Health Training Units in Central and Southern Zones and the North Queensland Workforce Unit. This will provide further feedback and enhance capacity within the units to support the delivery of the training course in the future.

The Federal Department of Health and Ageing funded the development of the resource kit and website www.indpac.org.au as part of the National Palliative Care Strategy.

The resource kit and website were developed collaboratively by the Wodonga Institute of TAFE, the Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation and Mercy Health Service Albury (Palliative Care).

These organisations consulted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities and with palliative care providers.

To obtain a free kit phone 1800 020 787 (free call), fax (02) 6289 9295, or web: www.indpac.org.au (no internet password required for Queensland Health staff).

For further information contact Hilary Waugh: Coordinator (Indigenous Palliative Care) at North Queensland Workforce Unit on 4050 8900.

Lessons learnt from power exercise

Emergency power supply planning has been improved following lessons learnt during a planned 24-hour shutdown last year of external electrical supplies at Nambour General Hospital.

The exercise “Power Down” was carried out as part of a risk management strategy.

Sunshine Coast Health Service District Manager, Kevin Hegarty, said the exercise was designed to test the hospital’s emergency power capacity on staffing protocol, emergency response and coordination procedures in the event of a major power failure.

“Each of the hospital departments was able to test, review their operational and technical emergency response procedures under conditions similar to a real power failure incident,” he said.

“Some problem areas were highlighted by the exercise and following audit processes.

“Many of these problem areas have been addressed and minor works completed to ensure an even better capability to withstand extended loss of power periods.

“This exercise clearly illustrated the dynamic dif-

ferences between planning an exercise on paper and testing the capability of the systems under a real-life scenario.

“While the staging of an event like this was expensive and a challenge for the entire staff of the hospital, the lessons learnt have been invaluable.

“Overall the Nambour General Hospital now has greater confidence in its ability to generate and supply all areas of the hospital with emergency power in the event of a problem.”

Hospital engineer, Fred Birkbeck, said the major objective of the exercise was to test the facility’s response to a power failure emergency for 24 hours.

He said this included testing the district emergency response plan and sub-plans, the uninterruptible power supply systems locations, capacity and future requirements, future emergency power needs, the interaction among varying services and departments, and the emergency control centre arrangements and procedures.

He said a realistic run-on-load test was carried out for the emergency generators to expose weak links in the systems.

Obituary

Clair Martin, who died in December, was regarded as a pioneer in diabetes education in Queensland and was well known throughout Queensland Health.

She was well regarded throughout Australia for her dedication to helping people with diabetes enjoy a normal healthy lifestyle, although she was not a diabetic herself.

Clair was a pioneer in regional diabetes education and participated in major diabetes conferences and seminars worldwide, mostly at her own cost and in her own time, to maintain a high level of professional knowledge.

She worked through Rockhampton Hospital, her private practice, diabetes education clinics throughout Central Queensland and activities for young people with diabetes.

Born Clair Magner at Grange, Brisbane, on 16 June 1940, she trained as a nurse at Royal Brisbane and Townsville hospitals.

She married in 1960 and moved with her family to Lae in 1975, where she was tutor in charge of nursing aid train-

ing at Angua Memorial Hospital.

They moved back to Australia in 1978, where she joined Community Health in Rockhampton, where she became concerned by the high proportion of patients with diabetes and the limited diabetes care facilities available at the time. She enrolled at her own expense in a diabetes educators course in Brisbane in 1982.

Clair was a catalyst in the formation of the Central Queensland Diabetes Group Incorporated and coordinated the first of its annual children’s diabetes camps.

She was a resource person for diabetes in Central Queensland and trainer and mentor to developing diabetes educators in the state.

She was one of the first diabetes educators in private practice in Australia and was still in practice at the time of her death.

She is survived by her husband, Bob Martin, her daughters Marie Melksham and Annette Flynn (both of whom work for Queensland Health), and five grandchildren.

Support service helps independent lifestyle

A range of temporary support services to help clients living independently at home has been developed under the Brisbane South Community Health Service's Intermittent Care Program.

The program targets frail, older people, 65 years and older, who have experienced a temporary change to their health status, carer support or living arrangements, or who are at risk of injury or admission to hospital or long-term residential care.

Services may also be provided to older people who are in hospital and are ready for discharge.

Services offered include:

- personal care – help with bathing and dressing
- domestic assistance – help with cleaning, washing, ironing, shopping
- home care – help with home repairs, maintenance and modifications
- nursing care – wound management and education

about medical conditions

- allied health services – physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy
- food services – help with shopping, food preparation, dietetics and home meal delivery or meal provision at a community or day centre
- social work
- mobility aids – crutches, walking frames and wheelchairs.

These services are designed to meet client needs for up to 12 weeks and may be provided in client's own homes or in an inpatient care setting, but not as an acute inpatient.

Entry to the program can be arranged through Community Hospital Interface Program nurses located at the QEII Jubilee, Princess Alexandra and Mater Hospitals in Brisbane.

The program will be coordinated by the Home and Community Care team using a case management approach.

infomatters

Art creates tranquillity



An exotic water feature and traditional Chinese artwork has brought an element of tranquillity and peaceful reflection to the waiting room at the Emergency Department at Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital.

They were donated by the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation.

Internationally renowned Chinese artist Mon Kang, who lives locally in Sunnybank, Brisbane, donated his own paintings to the hospital. His paintings depict the lotus flower and pigeons, which hold great significance to the Chinese culture.

Emergency Department Acting Nurse Manager, Juliana

Friedrich, said the lotus flower was the symbol of the Tzu Chi Foundation.

"The lotus symbolises that, regardless of your background or origin, if you uphold your integrity and self-esteem, you will prosper and shine, just as the lotus flower rises up out of muddy lakes to blossom and shine," she said.

"Similarly, the pigeon is an important Chinese symbol of peace."

A rich red feature wall was created to accommodate the paintings and water feature and they are complemented by a range of tropical plants.

District Manager, Wendy Pilkington (left) with Tzu Chi Foundation President, Peggy Lin, with the water feature, paintings and plants.

in retrospect

A review of some articles from previous Health Matters

August	Three gain prestigious Churchill Fellowships Telemedicine tests boost knee treatment Cherbourg setting new standards	October	Community groups unite to combat drink spiking Smoking bans nations toughest Movie buffs get on with the show
August Special Edition	Launching of the Queensland Health Strategic Plan 2004-2010 and Heath Determinants Queensland 2004	November/December	Excellence Award winners announced Derailment tests emergency response Rural Unit gains Premier's Award
September	Papabears going down to the park Survivor program a lifestyle change Innovative ideas encouraged	February	New technology aids Team Foxtrot Innovation program launched E-mail service boosts library access

diary



Health Workforce Queensland

Rural Orientation Workshop
For Queensland International Medical Graduate Doctors

This free-day workshop is organised by Health Workforce Queensland. Our organisation is a part of a network of Rural Workforce Agencies across Australia. We are funded by the Australian Government to support rural and remote doctors of Queensland.

When: (Sat - Sun) Tues 20th - Thurs 22nd April 2009 and (Mon - Wed) Tues 24th - Thurs 26th May 2009
Where: Stone House Plaza, Mackay/Queensland, Brisbane
Cost: \$100 (GST included)

Program
This workshop has been designed for the International Medical Graduate who have been in Australia for less than 12 months. It is a flexible program to meet the needs of the delegates.

Some of the topics may include:
Introduction to the Australian health care system
Where are the GP General Practices under the Australian system?
MCI and RCPs at Work
The Management
Indigenous Health and Cross Cultural awareness
Risk Management and Practice Management
Cerebrovascular and Pathways
Continuing Professional Development
Professional Support for you and your family
Primary Health - looking after yourself
Prevalent Emergency Skills
Resuscitation training

Registration
Please visit the Health Workforce website: www.healthworkforce.com.au
Or to the RCP website to download an Expression of Interest form
Medical Education and Training Team
Phone: 1300 388 888
Email: info@healthworkforce.com.au



We want your ideas

innov8

Visit the innov8 website to submit your ideas today: <http://qhpa.health.qld.gov.au/innovate/>
Innov8 ideas forms are also available from within your District

Queensland Government

MARCH

- 1-14** State Doorknock Appeal
Guide Dogs Queensland
Phone: 1800 810 119
- 1** Challenge for Cancer Launch
Queensland Cancer Fund
Phone: 1300 656 585
- 3-6** Nurse of the Year Launch
Queensland Cancer Fund
Phone: 1300 656 585
- 5** Lymphoedema Public Awareness Day
Lymphoedema Association of Queensland
Phone: 3232 7666
- 6-12** Bow Tie Appeal
Muscular Dystrophy Association of Queensland Inc
Phone: 3016 1800
- 6-13** Multiple Birth Awareness Week
Australian Multiple Birth Association
Phone: (02) 6971 2805
- 7-11** National Orthoptic Awareness Week
Orthoptic Association of Australia
Phone: (03) 9521 9844
- 10-12** World's Greatest Shave to Care and Cure
Leukaemia Foundation
Phone: 1800 500 088
- 13** Walk Against Want
Community Aid Abroad
Phone: 1800 034 034
- 13-20** Coeliac Awareness Week
Queensland Coeliac Society
Phone: 3854 0123
- 14-20** Brain Awareness Week
Brain Foundation
Phone: 1300 886 660
- 16** National Youth Tobacco Free Day
Smarter than Smoking Project
Phone: (08) 9382 5917
- 17-3 April** Red Cross Calling Annual Doorknock Appeal
Red Cross Queensland
Phone: 3835 1222
- 18** Punyahra 2005 Indigenous Health Expo
Logan-Beaudesert Health Service District
Phone: 5541 0919
- 19** QEII Hospital Health Service District Open Day
QEII Jubilee Hospital
Phone: 3275 6309
- 19-20** Relay for Life Mackay
Queensland Cancer Fund
Phone: 1300 656 585
- 21-23** QEII Week
QEII Jubilee Hospital
Phone: 3275 6309
- 21-25** HPE Week – Physical Activity Across the World
The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (Queensland)
Phone: 3895 8383
- 21-28** Pregnancy Loss Awareness Week
Bonnie Babes Foundation
Phone: (03) 9758 2800

Updated on-line version on www.health.qld.gov.au
(under Health Information/News & Events)