

University Department of Rural Health, Tasmania

C/- Glenview 2-10 Windsor St, Glenorchy

Tasmania 7010 Australia

Telephone: 03 6277 8804

Fax: 03 6277 8860

Mobile: 0409 705 278

Email: Susan.Frendin@utas.edu.au

Visit our Website at: www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au



PROJECT UPDATE June 2002

PROJECT LAUNCH:

The Hon. Kay Patterson will be in Glenorchy on **Friday 9th August from 10am-12pm** to launch the Tasmanian Sharing Health Care (SHC) Project.

REFERENCE GROUP MEETINGS:

The next Reference Group meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th July, from 1.30-3pm.

NEWSLETTER:

We are planning to have the next newsletter out by the end of July...

so please forward any information that you would like to have included in this, such as:

- events,
- ideas,
- innovative approaches to self-management etc

NATIONAL EVALUATION FRAMEWORK:

A consortium led by PricewaterhouseCoopers was announced as the National Evaluator for the Sharing Health Care Initiative projects in February. Working with PricewaterhouseCoopers on the National Evaluation will be the Australian Centre for Effective Health Care and the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney at Westmead.

We received data templates and tools 2 weeks ago, and final discussions are underway with each state project in the process of setting up and signing MOU's with the Commonwealth in relation to the data collection and framework. Please contact me if you would like more details on the Evaluation framework. **All of these tools and the framework will be presented at the next Reference Group meeting on Tuesday 16th July, 2002, 1.30-3pm.**

CONSUMER WORKSHOP Adelaide 3rd and 4th June 2002:

As a result of the Commonwealth's commitment to maintaining a strong link with consumer involvement in the Sharing Health Care Initiative, a consumer workshop was held on Adelaide on 3rd and 4th June 2002, with consumer and project staff representatives from each of the SHC projects. It was a very useful workshop providing the opportunity to revisit consumer perspectives and involvement in the project development and implementation, and develop strategies for ongoing consumer involvement.

The people who attended from Tasmania included:

- Carolyn Price: a peer leader and volunteer with Arthritis Tasmania.
- Steven Salter from the Break O'Day project site: Mayor of Break O'Day municipality.
- Mary Adams from the Devonport project site: Currently setting up a support group for people with respiratory problems.
- Mathew Vickers from the Glenorchy project site: COTA Rep and CEO of Independent Health Care services and on the RHH consumer board.
- Ella Ashley as our bi-cultural project staff member
- Bogusia Gralak from the Polish community and enrolled in the Lorig Leaders training; and
- Myself, as project manager.

We are planning to meet again in about a month's time following the receipt of the workshop proceedings to review consumer participation in the Tasmanian SHC project.





PROJECT FOCUS AND ACTIVITY:

The project has been operating from the three sites across Tasmania since February and March this year:

- Devonport Community Health Services Centre,
- The Healthy Communities House in St Helens; and
- Glenview in Glenorchy.

Community Mapping: The initial focus has been to identify the existing capacity of the local communities to support self-management ~ through government and non-government agencies and volunteer services. The community mapping is ongoing and will also be used to help identify any positive impact resulting from project initiatives by the end of the funding period, in 2004.

We have also been directing our efforts towards building networks, awareness and expertise among local health professionals. The project to this time has deliberately shied away from general (public) promotion until local communities and services have developed additional capacity to respond to the anticipated demand that will the project will generate. To this end,

- **Self-management workshops** (conducted by staff from Flinders University Co-ordinated Care Training Unit, SA) were held in May in each of the sites, and a 2-day workshop was held in Glenorchy. Further 2-day workshops with Flinders will be run in August in Devonport and St Helens.
- Three-day **leaders' training course** in the Lorig Chronic Disease Self Management course is scheduled in each site over the next 3 weeks with full enrolment, of 15 people, in each course.
- **Consumer focus groups** have been scheduled for July, and following the official launch of the (state) project by the Federal Minister for Health, Senator Kay Paterson on August 9th, **client recruitment** will begin.



POSSIBILITY OF A SELF-MANAGEMENT SEMINAR/ CONFERENCE IN 2003

Through the community mapping, we are coming across a range of wonderful local Tasmanian initiatives that support people with Chronic conditions and are looking at ways to promote and share this information to encourage cross fertilization of ideas and skills across the state.

Whilst we will continue to do this informally through the project, we have also started to consider whether there would be benefit in holding a workshop / seminar or conference in Tasmania early next year to highlight these initiatives and provide an opportunity for NGO's and Government and other organizations to showcase their work.

We would be keen to hear your ideas and suggestions around this, and will call for expressions of interest for a **SHC Education Working Party** to explore this further

STAFF CHANGES / UPDATE:

Ella Ashley has joined us as the Bi-cultural Worker based in Glenorchy. Ella will work with Samantha Tiernan the Glenorchy site manager to address the needs of the Polish community around self-management.

Sarah D'Arcy has joined us (to replace Kim Rushton) as our Project Assistant for 12 hrs/week in Glenorchy.

All the best,
Sue Frendin
Project manager (Acting)
Whose health is it anyway?