

February 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to this inaugural Cancer Care Coordinator Interest Group Newsletter.

This edition includes:

- Message from Interest Group Chair, Patsy Yates
- Messages from Jacinta Elks & Douglas Bellamy
- Service Improvements or Resource Development Feature:
 - ◊ Introduction of MDT in line with Patient Management Frameworks by Cathy Hammond
 - ◊ MDT clinical database; research projects derived from bedside clinical problems by Kylie Museth

**Welcome from Patsy Yates
Interest Group Executive Chair**

Since COSA's March 2009 Cancer Care Coordination Conference it has been a pleasure to watch the progress made by Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group and the three working groups. To gain an understanding of how the interest group is set up, the three chairs of the working groups (including myself) sit on the Executive along with Violet Platt our Director of Nursing representative. The working groups are: **Education & Conference, Networking & Communication, Research**. You can learn more about the members of the Working Group committees via the members area of the [COSA website](#)

Douglas Bellamy, our conference convenor along with the Education & Conference Working Group have put together an excellent program and we hope to see you at the March Conference. If you have not registered, I encourage you to visit the conference website www.cosacc2012.org to [REGISTER NOW](#)

This Newsletter is the initiative of the Networking & Communication Working Group led by Jacinta Elks. It builds on the features from the care coordination contact database (available in the members area of the COSA website). I am sure the regular articles on service improvements and projects implemented by your colleagues will be of special interest. Please take the opportunity to contact the authors should you seek further information. The e-Newsletter aims to inform, encourage communication amongst members and educate. We look forward to your active participation. See you at St Kilda next month!

Message from Jacinta Elks Chair - Networking & Communication Working Group

It has been my pleasure to have been a part of the Networking & Communication Working Group as we have endeavoured to achieve our identified core objectives over the last 18 months. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the committed members of our working party, all of whom have taken on this responsibility in addition to their substantive positions:

Caitlin Broderick WA	Julia Fallon-Ferguson WA	Maggie Stowers VIC
Caroline Richards SA	Julia Hunter NSW	Maria Dikeakos VIC
Fiona Woolcock TAS	Louise Underhill QLD	Rebecca Keating QLD

We are proud to have produced the requested national database of cancer care coordinator (CCC) contacts with the aim of facilitating both networking and communication. The database, as well as being a valuable stand alone resource, impressed us in terms of capturing the breadth of innovative practice being implemented by CCCs across Australia.

We thought it would be of value to showcase and share these projects, and so are pleased to present to you the first edition of '**The Coordinator**'. This newsletter is the next step in our strategy to foster and facilitate communication and networking amongst all Australian Cancer Care Coordinators. We aim to produce the newsletter three times a year, and I thank Caitlin for editing the first edition, and Kylie Museth and Cathy Hammond for their contributions.

We say farewell and thank Maggie Stowers for her contribution to the working group. Maggie, in her farewell mentioned that it has been so motivating to be a part of a national group working towards harmonising cancer care coordination to improve experiences and outcomes for cancer patients. She believes there is strength in unity! We wish Maggie well in her retirement.

Your thoughts and ideas are essential to continue to make improvements and progress the goals of the group, and so I would warmly encourage any feedback you may have on any of this working group's activities via the email set up for care coordinators which is carecoordinators@cancer.org.au. I would also like to extend particular thanks to Kath Ansell, COSA Project Coordinator. Quite simply we would not have been able to achieve our goals without Kath's unwavering support.

Message from Douglas Bellamy Chair - Education & Conference Working Group

The Education & Conference Working Group has been working hard to plan and deliver the COSA National Coordinator Conference which will be held 6 & 7 March this year. The conference, "Towards New Horizons", is jam packed with quality presentations and opportunities - for more information visit the conference website www.cosacc2012.org - there is still time to register. I look forward to meeting many of you at the conference.

I'll take the opportunity to list the members of Education Committee. Please contact any of us if you have suggestions or questions. The members are:

Alana Fraser QLD	Leanne Monterosso WA	Megan Rogers VIC
Andrea Franke NSW	Marcia Fleet VIC	Robyn Sharman WA
Lauren Knight WA	Maree Brandson QLD	Tracey Doherty SA

Without the hard work of this group, and especially Kathy Ansell, the conference would not have become a reality. We also congratulate Lauren Knight, who has worked so hard on this group, on the birth of her beautiful baby boy. Lastly, I would encourage you to ask questions and get involved. Your comments and questions help to support development of the group and your energy and enthusiasm will ensure that we continue to develop.

Service Improvements & Resource Development

Please click on the links below to read about projects your colleagues have undertaken.

[Implementation of Cancer Services Frameworks at the Western Central Integrated Services](#)

[Multidisciplinary team \(MDT\) clinical database & research projects derived from bedside clinical problems](#)

HOT TOPIC:

Cancer care coordinators improve the quality and capacity of cancer services in NSW, a Cancer Institute NSW evaluation has found.

The first-time evaluation found that care coordinators provide high-quality patient centred care, improve care coordination and support multidisciplinary care. Patients with access to a cancer care coordinator were more likely to receive timely and appropriate referrals to psychosocial and other support services, tailored education and easy to understand information when needed - compared to those without a care coordinator. The evaluation also found the role was valued highly by clinicians and service managers as an important component of cancer care. [Read More...](#)

We encourage you to join COSA and be part of a dynamic network!

[CLICK HERE](#) to join today

Supportive Care Announcements

• Brain tumour nursing module NOW AVAILABLE to nurses and health professionals

Nurses and health professionals will now have access to a brain tumour nursing module to support the care of primary brain tumour patients through all stages of their cancer journey. Developed by the Cancer Institute NSW, through the clinical advice of their expert NSW Oncology Group for Neuro-Oncology, the online module features video case-studies and follows the EdCaN blueprint. The case-study follows the story of Martin, a 49 year-old man diagnosed with a primary brain tumour. *View the resource online [here](#)*

• Supporting adolescent and young adult siblings of cancer patients: the family context

CanTeen (the Australian organisation for young people living with cancer), in conjunction with an expert advisory group, has recently launched the first of a series of Research to Practice Papers. The Paper titled, '**Supporting adolescent and young adult siblings of cancer patients: the family context**' encourages those working with young people with cancer to examine the needs of siblings and outlines recommendations for how they can support siblings. A copy of the [Paper](#) is available for download from the [CanTeen website](#) along with a full list of resources and references.

We value your feedback. Please email carecoordinators@cancer.org.au with suggestions of what you would like to see in our newsletter.

Thank you

Caitlin Broderick , Editor.