



**Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia**

Cancer Care Coordinators Group 'The Coordinator'

May 2013 Newsletter

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Message from Patsy Yates, Chair of the Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group

2012 was a productive year for the Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group. The group's achievements include the Cancer Care Coordination Conference, held in March in St Kilda, Victoria which attracted 257 delegates. The three working groups continued their great work to support and resources to cancer care coordinators nationally. The Executive met to develop a strategic plan much of which will be progressed by the working groups or specifically formed project groups. The Executive was careful to set activities and goals to reflect the feedback received from delegates at the Conference and the COSA Cancer Care Coordination membership.

In the first half of 2013 Jacinta Elks will lead a team of COSA Cancer Care Coordination members in the development of a position paper which aims to clarify the scope and role of the cancer care coordinator. This COSA developed project aims to provide a clear and detailed understanding of the cancer care coordination role by consumers, members of the multidisciplinary team, health service managers and funders, while providing a framework for the development of cancer care coordinator roles and will direction of the Interest Group's future activities.

The Professional Development working group lead by Douglas Bellamy will host a pre-conference workshop at the CNSA Winter Congress for which he provides further detail in his update below.

I encourage your involvement in the Interest group's activities in 2013 and as always welcome you to contact Kate Whittaker, COSA Project Coordinator for the Cancer Care Coordination Interest group.
kate.whittaker@cancer.org.au

Message from Jacinta Elks, Chair of the Communication and Networking group and Position Paper project team

I have two hats on for this edition...

Firstly, the project team has been selected to develop the COSA position paper on the role of the cancer care coordinator. Thank you to all who submitted expressions of interest. The group includes:

Rachel Jenkin- Coordinator of Nursing, WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network
Catherine Johnson- GI CCC & Clinical Research Nurse, Calvary Mater Newcastle
Jo Keyser- Rural Cancer Nurse Coordinator, WA Country Health Service-Midwest
Dr Eng-Siew Koh- Radiation Oncologist, Liverpool Hospital; Senior Conjoint Lecturer UNSW
Dr Donna Milne- Nurse Coordinator Melanoma Service and Deputy Head, Centre Nursing Research, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Carmel O'Kane- Oncology Nurse Practitioner, Wimmera Health Care Group

The COSA CCC Executive Committee is very appreciative of having this capable and experienced group of individuals working on the project, and would like to thank COSA for its ongoing financial and project support. The team has decided on literature search terms and critical appraisal processes, and is now moving into the literature review phase. The group met face-to-face in Sydney on 27th April to progress this work further, and the goal is to have it ready for presentation at the CCC Workshop attached to the CNSA Winter Congress in July this year.

I look forward to providing updates on the development of the position paper. It has gained great interest from the COSA membership and external organisations. I thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm for the project.

The Communication and Networking group also continue to meet with the goal of providing coordinators across Australia with opportunities to communicate professionally, and to facilitate referral of patients to other regions and services. The National Contacts Database continues to be a great tool to assist coordinators in communicating, and was used to connect with the Northern Territory's first CCC, Simone Champion, Cancer Care Coordinator at the Alan Walker Cancer Centre in Darwin. Simone has agreed to join the Communication and Networking Committee, and I extend the warmest welcome to her. Another pending focus of the committee is the role of mentorship and/or clinical supervision. I would welcome input from any 'Coordinator' readers on that topic. The group will review our additional activities in the second half of the year.

Message from Douglas Bellamy, Chair of the Professional Development group

Planning for the Professional Development day is in full swing! The workshop will be held on Thursday 25th July 2013 at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre in conjunction with the CNSA Winter Congress pre-conference workshops. The title of the workshop is Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day: Updating this Key Role, which reflects the two parts of the program. The morning session will showcase the position paper on the role of cancer care coordinator. The issues and content in the position paper will be presented followed by a robust discussion by a panel of oncology experts. The afternoon session will provide delegates with a practical session on screening tools as used and adapted by various coordinators. This session will include break out time for delegates to consult the presenters on how their chosen screening tool has been effective in their care setting.

COSA will cover the cost of registration for the first 50 members to register for this workshop. For more information and to register please go to <https://www.etouches.com/CNSA2013> and enter the discount code 'COSA'. The discount is only available to the first 50 COSA members to register, however anyone is invited and encouraged to attend and will need to register via the above link.

This group is also hard at work organising the next Cancer Care Coordination Conference which will be held in Sydney on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th March 2014... so save the date! The theme is Cancer Care Coordination: Constructing Cancer Care Across the Continuum, with more details to follow.

Service Improvements & Resource Development

WA Cancer Nurse Coordination project update, Rachel Jenkin (pdf attached to email)

Connect with your Cancer Care Coordination Colleagues!

Kathy Vickers

Member of the COSA Cancer Care Coordination Communication & Networking Group

Workplace:

Albury Wodonga - I sit with Hume Regional Cancer Services in Wodonga (Victoria), though my position is funded through the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (NSW).



The role is heavily focused on supportive, rather than clinical care. I receive referrals from various sources to contact patients and ensure that they have support throughout their cancer treatment. I educate community members on supports available for cancer patients, and support nurses in other hospitals. Supporting the community and hospital nurses improves the cancer experience for the patient and family.

Most rewarding aspect of your job?

Being able to make the whole family feel supported through a cancer treatment and beyond.. Getting the families to understand that a cancer journey is a team affair, and that everyone's role is important, is very rewarding.

Most challenging aspect of your job?

- Lack of supports in regional areas for patients with less common cancers. For example, finding support options for a young, not quite terminal but not treatable brain cancer patient is hard.
- Patients have to travel distance for treatment, and this is hugely disruptive, expensive, and it can put pressure on families. Trying to improve access to out of area services through improved

put pressure on families. Trying to improve access to out of area services through improved transport options, better financial support, and decreasing the need to travel is a huge challenge. I have a particular interest in improving support for the children of adult cancer patients, especially the pre-teens who seem to be the lost group.

If you had the power to initiate one change, what would that be?

- an effective, integrated electronic health information sharing platform. This would allow effective information sharing with the minimum of fuss between health workers, hospitals, and health regions. This would ideally decrease the number of referrals that get lost, test results don't get passed on, and cut down on waiting times.
- increased use of free videoconferencing (Skype, Facetime) for education and patient care.
- improving cancer survivorship supports in the region, especially for adolescents and young adults returning from metropolitan treatment centres (the idea of a nurse led survivorship clinic sounds appealing...)

Advice/ideas to share with fellow colleagues new to the cancer care coordination role:

Communication, a clear Care Coordinator role, and ongoing networking with all health workers is vital to make sure that every single cancer patient has equal access to the supports that they need to get them through treatment and beyond. It's vital to become known to all sources of potential patient referral so that they think of you when caring for the patient in their facility. through treatment and beyond. It's vital to become known to all sources of potential patient referral so that they think of you when caring for the patient in their facility.

Victoria Integrated Cancer Services (VICS) Inaugural Conference 2013

13th-14th May 2013

Rydges Hotel Melbourne

Cost: Early bird rate \$395 closes 12th April 2013, thereafter \$495

This is the inaugural conference of the VICS which will provide a forum to showcase the exciting work and developments across all aspects of cancer care in Victoria. The two day conference will feature patient focused, system focused and innovation streams.

The Integrated Cancer Services (ICS) are formal partnerships between health services that were formed in 2005 and represent Victoria's cancer clinical network. The ICS aim to work with consumers, clinicians and health service managers to improve the planning and delivery of cancer care so that it is coordinated, appropriate and effective.

For more information and to register please follow this link <http://vics2013.org/>

COSA Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day: Updating this Key Role

Thursday 25th July 2013

9:30am- 4:00 pm

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: Free for first 50 COSA members to register using discount code 'COSA', thereafter or for non COSA member rates apply: early bird \$100 until 30th May, thereafter the price is \$150

This year the COSA Cancer Care Coordination group is hosting Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day: Updating this Key Role in conjunction with the Cancer Nurses Society Australia (CNSA) Winter Congress pre-conference workshops.

The COSA Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Group is hosting a pre-conference workshop titled Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day: Updating This Key Role at the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Winter Congress 2013. This workshop will be held on Thursday 25th July and you can register by following the link <https://www.etches.com/CNSA2013>. COSA is kindly covering the cost of registration for the first 50 COSA members to attend. When you register you will need to use discount code 'COSA'. Note: this is only for the first 50 COSA members. After this and for non COSA members, normal CNSA workshop fees will apply but we welcome anyone interested to attend. The program includes the launch, presentation and critical panel analysis of the position paper, and an afternoon workshop session on the use of screening tools across settings of care.

CNSA 16th Winter Congress: Connecting Cancer Care

25th- 27th July 2013

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Early Bird registration closes 30th May 2013

The 16th Winter Congress begins with pre-conference workshops held on Thursday 25th July, and the Congress will feature international keynote speaker Professor Brenda Nevidjon from Duke University School of Nursing, USA. The theme reflects practice, education and research issues relevant to all nurses working across health providers, states and territories and continents and cultures.

Key topics include:

Sessions developed specifically for novice and advanced practitioners
Latest research updates

'How to' publish your own work
Leadership and mentoring
Current clinical practices
Psychosocial care

Registrations are open for the Congress and the pre-conference workshops. To register visit the website <http://www.cnsawintercongress.com.au/>

Service Announcements

Primary Care Partnerships Workforce Capacity Building, VicHealth

The Service Coordination On-line Learning Module is now available at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/workforce/index.htm>.

This is a state government initiative to improve access to services and continuity of care of people through improved service coordination, as well as chronic disease prevention, integrated health promotion and partnership development. This e-learning tool is used to support the practice of Service Coordination in Victoria. Organisations are encouraged to use this module to orientate staff to Service Coordination practice within their organisation and use it for professional development of existing staff.

Cancer Care Coordination Module on Queensland (QLD) Oncology On-Line

Queensland Oncology On-Line (QOOL) aims to support cancer services throughout QLD by providing solutions for routine and standardised data capture, information sharing with a patient centric focus and providing access to clinical outcomes and system performance data for quality improvement.

Clinicians use QOOL to refer patients for a multi-disciplinary review and electronically capture and communicate important clinical information such as diagnosis, cancer stage and recommended treatment. Supports clinician lead service improvement by enabling clinicians across QLD to participate in local and state-wide audit and peer review activities.

Using QOOL, contact with a cancer care coordinator was captured for 228 patients in 2009 increasing to 3930 in 2012.

To access the module follow the link <https://qccat.health.qld.gov.au/AboutQOOL>

Other useful resources accessed on this website include:

- QDOCS- QLD Directory Of Cancer Services: Link care providers across regions, service networks and organisations.
- QOR- QLD Oncology Registry: house data routinely collected electronically from various systems within QLD Health
- QCR- QLD Cancer Registry: Contracts with The Cancer Council QLD to maintain a state Population based registry. Collects information about new cases of cancer and produces statistics about incidence, prevalence, survival and mortality.

Message from COSA Executive Officer, Marie Malica

At the COSA Annual General Meeting in November 2012, the COSA membership unanimously approved a new Constitution developed to support COSA's business and governance operations as we move to become a Company Limited by Guarantee (approved at the 2010 AGM). A smaller board will be elected to govern the organisation, while Council will remain as the main advisory body incorporating all the interests of COSA members and Affiliated Organisations. The process of this change requires clarification of members' rights and responsibilities to ensure consistency and fairness and to ensure that the historical value of the COSA Council is not diminished by the proposed changes. This is a significant step in the future growth of COSA – becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee will allow us to function more effectively as a national entity and move forward on a number of issues that have been on hold during this period of transition.

COSA is also moving from calendar year memberships to financial year. COSA is currently giving six months free membership to anyone who was a member as of 31st December 2012 while this changeover occurs. Membership renewals will be due from 1 July 2013 (more information on this will be sent to all COSA members shortly). Due to this change COSA is unable to sign up new members until July also. Another change affecting the COSA Cancer Care Coordination members is the removal of a joint COSA/CNSA membership option – as CNSA is now managing their membership independently. Once current memberships under this category expire CNSA members wishing to also hold COSA membership will need to purchase this separately. As CNSA has agreed to become a COSA Affiliated Organisation, CNSA members will be eligible for a 10% discount on their COSA membership.

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

If you are interested in becoming a member please email kate.whittaker@cancer.org.au to register your interest for when membership re-opens in July.

COSA Cancer Care Coordination interest group members are active in the formation of structures that will support key areas in:

- the development of a common 'tool kit' of data items and validated tools;
- formation of networks for information sharing by Cancer Care Coordinators across the country as well as web-based approaches to sharing resources and experiences;

- promoting the benefits of the Cancer Care Coordination role within the multidisciplinary team and more broadly to the healthcare community;
- developing an educational strategy to identify and encourage training in the core skills that underpin the cancer care coordination, regardless of who is undertaking the role;
- collaborative research initiatives to develop and implement a national evaluation strategy that will measure the impact of the Cancer Care Coordinator role.

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

Thank you

Louise Underhill , Editor.

