

Snippets from the Aged Task Force Meeting 17th May 2005

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST 2005, 9.30AM,
Guest Speaker will be Yan Yan Lam, Coordinator of the 'Cooinda Club',
the Meals on Wheels, Social Isolation Project**

Welcome to the second addition of 'The Snippets' for 2005, the new layout has been very well received. The Aged Task Force activities and meetings are presented in this summary and action format. **The second meeting for the year saw an enthusiastic group meeting with many issues being progressed.**

Meeting Attendance

The meeting was chaired by Sarah Varley, present were Norm Melvin, Nancie Melvin, Pam Hennen, Pauline Milton, Julia Hutten, Peter Hutten, Karen Tavener-Smith, Reg Lobb and Alicia Ransley (SESIH)

Apologies were received from Anita Mulally (IECC), Joni Braham (DADHC), and Jan Rosen (IRT)

For your diary: meeting dates for the rest of 2005

Starting at 9.30 am

- Tuesday, 16th August
- Tuesday, 15th November

Working Groups Update

Seniors and Banking

Our working group has met with local banks representatives on the use of new banking technology by older people. We hoped to have generated more interest but positive responses were only received from Westpac and Commonwealth Banks. However, the meeting was very productive with staff from these two banks being interested and keen to hear of concerns and work on solutions. The group identified some practical ways to assist with this issue. These included : general media around advice on use of Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) and EFTPOS, link with other directories focussed on access/disability services to identify automatic teller machines that are suitable for hearing impaired and wheelchair accessible, promote Banking Made Easy seminars locally (consider Bilingual training) and investigate training options such as linking with computer awareness courses and libraries. We would also strongly encourage seniors to seek staff support in learning new technologies.

Action: *ATF agreed that media would be the first strategy and that this would focus on use of ATMs. Efforts will also be made to promote Banking Made Easy seminars and linking of this to computer training courses for seniors. There was discussion of an initiative during senior's week in 2006.*

Photographic Library: Celebrating the 'Time of Our Lives'

Selection of photographs for the library are well on the way, with the aim of having around 40 photographs chosen from those submitted to previous competitions. Photographs will be a good size and laminated to be light, transportable and readily mounted. Colin Markham has kindly agreed to assist us with the process of having photographs enlarged digitally and laminated. The photos from the library will be hung at The Wollongong Entertainment Center for the month of October and will highlight the International Day of Older Persons.

We are nearer to achieving our long-term aim of having a library of high quality photographs of Illawarra seniors being actively involved in community life. The photographic library will provide the Aged Task Force and community organisations with an exhibition which will inspire older people and the community to become involved in positive ageing activities. It will be loaned free of charge to promote services and activities that are focussed on older persons and their needs.

The Aged Task Force welcomes anyone with expertise and knowledge in this area to assist with the library's development.

Action: *Working Party of Norm and Nancie Melvin, Pauline Milton, Pam Hennan and Colin Markham to progress final photos and exhibition. HCI to develop captions and support materials for library.*

Oral Health

Progress from the oral health stakeholder meeting and recommendations from the report have been positive. The Aged Task Force has completed a submission to NSW Standing Committee on Social Services – Inquiry into Dental Services in NSW, highlighting the issues of concern identified for oral health in Residential Care Facilities. An application was also made to Clubs NSW, Community Development Support Expenditure Grants for funds to purchase functional treatment chairs and overhead operating lights for some Illawarra care facilities. This equipment will assist treatment on site and provision of timely and appropriate dental care to frail older people. This was a significant issue raised by visiting dental professionals as well as nursing staff. Treatment at facilities is the preferred option as in the majority of cases cognitive problems as well as extreme frailty; make transfer to community facilities traumatic and unmanageable. We are awaiting the outcome of this application. SESI Area Health has also rolled out a training program for staff at Residential Care Facilities; this will promote 'train the trainer' approaches and site champions for oral health. Another stakeholder meeting is planned for August.

Action: *Coordinate stakeholder meeting and actions from this.*

Gerontology Seminar

Great news!!! The Gerontology Association has agreed to hold their regional seminar in Wollongong. Reg Lobb has maintained contact with representatives and a local chapter of a national conference will be held in the Illawarra. There is an opportunity to access an international expert in Aged Care, Jon Pynoos's, to speak locally. Suggestions were proposed that the Illawarra Retirement Trust may like to partner the association. The Aged Task Force (ATF) will provide support in developing a seminar and share local knowledge of suitable venues and networks for contact. Reg to liaise with ATF and Gerontology Association as to topic and conduct of seminar.

Action: *Reg to continue to monitor progress for ATF.*

The latest news on Health Related Transport

Our guest speaker at the meeting was **Alicia Ransley from SESI Area Health**. The group was very keen to hear the progress of Health Related Transport program whose inception was as an outcome of ATF surveying, lobbying and support. The integrated service is now operating 6 buses all of which are wheelchair accessible, with 4 buses providing door to door service and two a hospital shuttle service. The shuttle service is conducted 6 days a week and there is an after hours renal transport service. The shuttle service transports an amazing 14,000 people annually, as compared to 1000 when the service was first trialled in 2001. Outpatient transport journeys are now at around 11,000 a year again compared to less than 1000 in 2001. A terrific response to the Illawarra communities' need. A significant increase in services to renal patients has been one of the great outcomes of the program. **The Health Related Transport Service can be reached by calling 4223 8146. Patients, carers and family visitors can access the service.**

Interested in joining the taskforce?

Is there an issue you would like to raise? The Aged Task Force has open membership and always welcomes new members, for more information please call Karen Tavener-Smith on 4226 5000.

As a guide to what we aim to do, here are our goals:

- To have a taskforce that is broadly representative of all stakeholders, including older people, aged care service providers, government and non-government agencies.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information between service providers, older people and those with an interest in matters which affect older adults
- To increase community awareness and response about the issues which affect the health and well being of older people in the Illawarra.
- To listen to the needs and concerns of the older community and prioritise these and develop strategies to address them.
- To advocate for the best possible level of service provision for older people.
- To form project working parties to address specific issues and to co-opt other members with expertise to these committees as required.

Aged Task Force Review of Mailing Details

Do you still want to receive information about ATF activities?

If you wish to continue receiving correspondence.....do nothing!!! If you wish to be removed from the mailing list or have a new address please inform us by calling **(02) 4226 5000**.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 16th August 2005, 9.30AM

at Healthy Cities Illawarra, 63 Auburn St, Wollongong

Please RSVP by phoning (02) 4226 5000 or

emailing to programs@healthycitiesill.org.au