

Greetings

Welcome to the second edition of "**Across the Continuum**", the Newsletter from the Southern Cancer Network. We have had **GREAT** feedback in response to our first newsletter. Thank you to those who have e-mailed or phoned our office. The aim of our monthly newsletter is to reach as many of our stakeholders as possible from across the South Island cancer services continuum of care. So if you know of someone who hasn't received our newsletter yet and would like to, then please forward it on or let us know, so we can include them in our next mail out - email ruth.robson@sissal.govt.nz with details.

Introducing Ruth Robson



In late April, Ruth Robson joined the team at SCN as Project Manager. Ruth comes from a nursing background but in more recent years has worked as a Project Manager in the Arts Sector and as a Dental Practice Manager. Ruth's focus with the SCN will be in facilitating stakeholder collaboration and feedback and leading projects with a particular focus in addressing inequalities. Ruth looks forward to making contact with stakeholders across the region in the near future.

We're On the Road!

SCN is coming to YOUR region to consult with YOU! A series of consultation meetings is being planned across the South Island in the months of June, July and August 2008.

The purpose of these meetings is to communicate the role of SCN and to seek an understanding of the local cancer care issues. Please contact Ruth Robson for more information. Ph: 03 372 3028
e-mail: ruth.robson@sissal.co.nz

'Living With Cancer'

Maori Community Consultation Hui



On May 14, He Oranga Pounamu hosted a Christchurch Hui, for local Maori to gain an overview of mainly non government services available to support Maori cancer patients and their whanau. Speakers included representatives from the Cancer Society, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Canteen, Nurse Maude Services, Arthritis NZ and CDHBs Oncology Maori Health Worker, Theo Ireton also gave a presentation.

Angelia Ria, Senior Manager from He Oranga Pounamu said *"Non-government organisations in the cancer sector have a crucial role to play in improving the quality of care for those with cancer and their whānau, through support, rehabilitation and palliative care."*



The Hui provided a platform for engagement with the Maori community, where providers were able to disseminate information and education to a community they may have difficulty in accessing. Local Maori were able to give constructive feedback, suggestions for improvement and even offers of assistance. *"I am hopeful that the goodwill shared at the Hui will translate to better accessibility for Maori at least at a local level,"* Angelia said.

Around the Region

Otago Community Hospice update - Ginny Green, CEO

In Otago, all patients with a life limiting illness now have access to specialist palliative care services. This hasn't always been the case. Up until February last year only Dunedin residents and a small number of rural residents had access to the full range of community based specialist palliative care services. Now the Otago Community Hospice has rural teams based in North, South and Central Otago which work alongside their generalist colleagues supporting the terminally ill in rural Otago. The teams are made up of a Medical Officer, Nurse and Family Support Worker. The teams are rapidly becoming established and respected, as evidenced by the significant increase in referrals, which have doubled in 12 months. We continue to monitor, seek feedback and adapt the rural services and don't believe we've got it exactly right yet but have come a long way to reducing inequalities for our rural population.



Photo: Otago Community Hospice South Otago Team from left Sue Smith, Family Worker, Janice Sargent, Medical Officer, Lisa Sell, Nurse.

Keep in Touch...

The Southern Cancer network is hosted by SISSAL (South Island Shared Services Agency Limited), based in Christchurch.

SCN Manager - Barbara Lloyd

e-mail: Barbara.Lloyd@sissal.govt.nz

Phone: 03 372 3036

SCN Project Manager – Ruth Robson

e-mail: Ruth.Robson@sissal.govt.nz

Phone: 03 372 3028

SCN Administrator - Pauline Boereboom

e-mail: Pauline.Boereboom@sissal.govt.nz

Phone: 03 372 3016

Clinical Directors:

Dr Bernie Fitzharris & Dr Shaun Costello

Lead GM Planning & Funding:

Dr Sharon Kletchko

Meeting Reports

South Island DHB Cancer Portfolio Managers' Meeting.

On May 20th, five DHB representatives with cancer portfolio responsibility met with SCN staff to discuss opportunities for collaboration and cooperation across the region. The meeting successfully provided a forum for sharing information, issues and expertise. SCN was also updated on regional activities from a planning and funding perspective. It is hoped that this meeting will be the first of ongoing collaboration opportunities between the six South Island DHBs at this level.

Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) Oncology SI Stakeholder Meeting

This forum took place on May 22nd in Christchurch bringing together key stakeholders from across the South Island to discuss issues relating to Adolescent and Young Adults Oncology. Chaired by Dr Bridget Robinson and hosted by SCN, this first meeting drafted the terms of reference and identified a rolling action plan pertaining to the new Service Specification for AYA Oncology and Haematology services.

Our Role and Purpose



The Southern Cancer Network aims:

- to bring together stakeholders from across the South Island cancer continuum of care
- to provide leadership, facilitation and coordination with respect to achieving the initiatives and goals of the Cancer Control Strategy.

Our focus is to work collaboratively across the cancer continuum in order to reduce the impact and incidence of cancer and reduce inequalities with respect to cancer. Through the SCN and in partnership with key stakeholders, we seek to collectively plan cancer services to maximise and improve the patient journey.

