

## Greetings

Welcome to the October issue of the Southern Cancer Network Newsletter. Spring is well and truly with us and we are sure you will be enjoying the warmer days and daffodils as we are.

In this issue we report on the work of a palliative care nurse educator from Marlborough, Daffodil Day on the West Coast and the up and coming Bandana Challenge that is scheduled to take place during October.

We welcome contributions from you, our key stakeholders and would love to share what you are doing in the area of cancer control with others across the South Island.

The key purpose of these roles is to facilitate ongoing learning and enhanced knowledge and understanding of the palliative care approach to caring for people with life limiting illness.

Within Marlborough this educational work involves a number of our staff at the hospice and is provided across multiple disciplines (doctors, nurses, caregivers and support staff) and clinical settings (community, rest homes, hospital). Underpinning this development in palliative care knowledge and care delivery is the intention to ensure quality palliative care is accessible to people who need it, regardless of their illness (cancer or chronic medical conditions) or place of care. Facilitating ongoing learning and in-service education for specialist palliative care providers is also a component of the PC nurse educator role.

## Professional Perspective

### Palliative Care Education in Marlborough one year on

Jacqui Bowden-Tucker, Nurse Educator  
Palliative care, Marlborough Community  
Hospice reports...



Jacqui Bowden-Tucker Nurse Educator, Palliative Care

The need for a Palliative Care (PC) nurse educator role for Marlborough, was identified in a key collaborative project (*Palliative Care: Improving access to Quality Services, August 2006*) between Marlborough Community Hospice

(MCH), Nelson Hospice Trust and the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board. This project came under the auspices of the Cancer Control Strategy with funding from the Ministry of Health. PC Nurse Educator roles have also been appointed in Nelson and Golden Bay and our work is guided by a district wide comprehensive integrated and co-ordinated Palliative Care Education Plan (2007-2012).

In the last year progress has included strengthened linkages between MCH and rest home facilities through provision of palliative care education to both care givers and registered nurses - recognising their increasing role in the provision of longer-term palliative care. A 'link' nurses group has been established with nominated nurses from each rest home who have an interest in palliative care. These nurses meet to share and develop further palliative knowledge and skill. Each member is supported to become the key resource nurse within their rest home where they are encouraged to promote and support good palliative care practice.

Considerable time has been invested in meeting and establishing closer links with other care providers, resulting in provision of education sessions to local hospital staff, community support workers, GPs, practice nurses and medical students. "*Rome wasn't built in a day*" but we have made a very good start. Ultimately it is hoped, that for patients and families, this work developing skill and knowledge in palliative care will increasingly result in their 'journey' and experience of living with a life-limiting illness being less stressful, more supported and tailored to their needs.

## On the National Front...

Koral Fitzgerald - Canteen Member Support Manager in the Christchurch office, submitted this update...



We are fast approaching our busiest calendar month as the national appeal focuses on fundraising as well as educating the public on what CanTeen does to support young people living with cancer.



CanTeen's Annual Bandanna Challenge will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> - 31 October. Our Ambassadors - Dan Carter, netballer Maria Tutaia, fashion label Federation along with talented CanTeeners - have taken the challenge and designed some great new bandannas for 2008.

All money raised goes to providing social, emotional and educational support for patients and siblings living with cancer. In addition national programmes provide education and empowerment on leadership, communication, sexuality / fertility, and dealing positively with grief and loss.

The Bandanna Challenge is the major annual fundraising event for CanTeen. CanTeen receives no government funding and is independent from other New Zealand cancer charities. CanTeen in recent times has employed dedicated Patient Support Coordinators throughout the country as well as part-funding the appointment and training of Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) key workers in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch hospitals. Further work, including lobbying the Ministry of Health for improved AYA services and financially contributing to the building of a dedicated 6 bed AYA Ward at Starship Hospital shows how far we have developed from earlier days when we were recognized by some as simply a 'fun distraction' for young people with cancer. Don't get the wrong idea though - we still have BUCKET loads of fun!

Contact Koral on (03) 377 3028  
[canterbury@canteen.org.nz](mailto:canterbury@canteen.org.nz) or visit  
[www.canteen.org.nz](http://www.canteen.org.nz).

## Ministry Review Document

The Ministry of Health has just released the "Guidance for Improving Supportive and Rehabilitative Care for Adults with Cancer in New Zealand" review document and submission booklet. The aim of this draft guidance document is to improve the quality of life for people affected by cancer, by improving access to and quality of supportive care in New Zealand.

To have your say follow the link below:  
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf.pagesmh/8346>

Submission closing date:  
5pm, Tuesday 28 October 2008

## West Coast Daffodil Day



Bill Gage (L) and Geoff King helped to collect in Greymouth on Daffodil Day

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August was the Cancer Society's Annual Daffodil Day Appeal and it was another very successful fundraiser on the West Coast. The support from local communities throughout the West Coast means the local branch of the Cancer Society can continue to provide a wide variety of support and education services for people with cancer and their families on the West Coast.

## Feedback is Welcome!



Send us your comments and/or compliments  
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