



# Rural Rehabilitation Clinician Network Project

## NEWSLETTER Vol 9 June 07

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the Rural Rehabilitation Clinician Network Connection from the NSW Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching (IRCST). The project is now consolidating some collaborative partnerships and seeing much more general awareness of the role of rehabilitation and integrated teamwork of the disciplines who work together for a common goal. In fact, a patient who successfully rehabilitated recently commented that the rehabilitation process could be likened to a footy game, “all team players have to work together and have influence over the ball (the patient) to reach the goal. If one player tries to do it all he runs out of steam and the team loses”.

### UPDATE

#### Links with Tertiary Hospitals

- Quarterly Rehab Forums via videoconferencing commenced 23 May. Recommendations from the funded pilot have been forwarded to Royal Rehab Centre Sydney, and operational management of the next 2 forums have been altered, set down for 15th August and 12th September. It was agreed that the formal structure of these forums is best suited for a conference type forum, and that in future case presentation / discussion sessions would be more interactive, and less time consuming. A planning morning will be held soon, to develop a calendar which will see all Rehabilitation sites asked to participate on a roster to deliver a short case presentation followed by a case discussion. A draft calendar will be distributed late August seeking confirmation, and the calendar will be effective from January 2008. The only costs involved will be Area Health Service broadband once established. Thankyou to The Institute (IRCST) for funding these 3 forums, clinician appreciation for IRCST assistance was evident from the feedback.
- ARNA- Australasian Rehab Nurses Assoc—Don't forget the annual education day to be held 27.7.07. Enquiries to Christine Rolfe ph 02 98999009  
“GRASS ROOTS” column in JARNA are looking for rural rehabilitation articles now. If you Draft articles can be sent to Anthony.Black@peterjames.org.au.
- Rural Spinal Cord Injury Service has secured funding to continue education and clinics being offered in rural NSW. Abstracts are now being called for the Australia New Zealand Spinal Cord Society) ANZSCoS 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Sydney 1 –3 Nov.
- Rankin Park Centre - funding is available through Nurse Strategy funding for HNEhealth clinicians wanting to undertake a professional secondment in their area of interest. Please contact Kathy Bullen ph: 40855393
- Meeting held with Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine to build a collaborative partnership towards rehabilitation education. Proposal being discussed to expand monthly program for trainees nationally, commencing in 2008. This will be a staged process, with some rural sites being chosen as a pilot during the trial phase. Other rehabilitation health professionals will be welcome to attend with their medical colleagues.

#### Professional Development

- NSW College of Nursing has issued notice of a new 3 day Continuing Education Course to be run in Orange in August titled “Aged Care and Rehabilitation”. Flyer was distributed via REHAB connect.

- Rehabilitation service directory update – NSW AFRM will be updating the service directory. Could all Rehabilitation facilities (Public and Private) have a look at the directory and forward any amendments, additional services, contact details to me by 20.7.07 please? You can access it by going to the Institute website [www.ircst.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ircst.health.nsw.gov.au) , go to Rural Rehabilitation Clinician page and scroll down to the service directory direct link.
- A Rehabilitation CNC audit is complete 3 Rehabilitation CNC's and 3 Aged Care and Rehabilitation CNC's exist in rural NSW. A draft brief has been sent to the IRCST to pursue funding for Rehabilitation CNC positions. This strategy would enhance education and networking for rural rehab Clinicians substantially.
- Each of the four rural Area Health Services has been allocated funding for one Nurse Practitioner position each from the next round of growth funding. HNE health and GSAHS are considering the role of Rehabilitation Nurse Practitioners and meetings with AFRM, Medical and Nursing Managers have been supportive in pursuit of Rehabilitation Nurse Practitioner positions, breaking new ground in NSW. Further meetings have now been set to discuss position description, pathway and scope of practice for development of Nurse Practitioner positions for Rehabilitation. Are there any there candidates out there who would consider NP authorization?

### **Collaboration**

- Discussions with Charles Sturt University, and the brand new Centre for Inland Health have opened up some potential opportunities for promotion of new graduates to 'go rural', and for the launch of the new road show workshops which currently deliver multidisciplinary workshops addressing frailty in aged care. These workshops incorporate the vital role of the disciplines involved in a team approach to rehabilitation and reconditioning. Many ideas will be pursued to increase promotion of a rural lifestyle in workforce recruitment and of interdisciplinary understanding within the undergraduate course. The prospect of trialing a Community Based Rehabilitation program in partnership with CSU could be a possibility.
- AFRM are in the process of expanding access to their training program from 2008, which will lead to other rehabilitation disciplines participating in a staged process. Some rural trials will be conducted this year. More news as it becomes available.

### **Rehabilitation Profile**

- A working party with representatives from all rural AHS has been meeting regularly to progress Rehabilitation Week (17 to 23 September). The Rural Stroke and Rural Rehabilitation Clinician Projects will come together under the Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching to promote rehabilitation as an essential process in Stroke and Brain Injury recovery. The aim of this committee is to brainstorm promotional initiatives, and to link with any celebrations planned with Stroke or Brain Injury services in your local area . This will include media exposure capturing local rural human interest stories in conjunction with Rehabilitation Expo's in regional shopping centres.

Further ideas include:

- a static display of agencies and aids required for rehabilitation
- Promotion of carer organizations, financial assistance, housing and employment services.
- Promotion of the disciplines which work together as a team to achieve individual client goals in the form of poster displays.
- A co-ordinated and supported approach state-wide from NSW Stroke Project and Rural Rehabilitation Clinician Project, working with the NSW Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching to recognize rehabilitation as an essential ingredient in recovery for independent living. Next meeting via teleconference is Thursday 9th August at 0830am.

Your representative has been sent a Flyer to help planning for how your facility is going to celebrate the good work you all do in getting people home, back to work and back to as independent a lifestyle as is possible.

Ros Perry Bathurst GSAHS, Jeanne O'Neill Albury GSAHS, Marg Grillet Broken Hill GWAHS, Lacey Healey Dubbo GWAHS, Debra Reinholdtsen Dorrigo NCAHS, Jennifer Tucker Coonabarabran GWAHS, Lesley Solomon Shoalhaven SESIAHS, Felicity Robinson Tamworth HNE health.

**Let's Get Ready!!!**