



## September 2011



Rev. Cheryl Holmes  
CEO

From the CEO ...

### Reflection

I am pleased to welcome you to this first edition of HCCVI's eNews. Through this regular publication we hope to keep you informed of developments within the spiritual care sector and the work of HCCVI. This first edition has been timed to coincide with our AGM. The 2011 AGM marks a significant occasion for our organisation as we recognise the move over the past 6 months towards the establishment of HCCVI as a multi-faith organisation. We welcome our new members from the Buddhist, Salvation Army, Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu faiths. It has been exciting to work with their organisations as they explore the

development of spiritual care services within their communities. Don't forget that contact details for [faith communities](#) are available on the HCCVI website. At this AGM we also mark the transition to a new governance structure and congratulate the newly elected members of the Board.

### Below ...

[Spiritual care in EQulP5 review](#)

[Spirituality in aged care: sign up for the pilot](#)

[Partnerships in mental health](#)

[News from regional working parties](#)

Education & Training ...



Dan Murphy  
Manager - Education  
& Training

### EQUIP5 Standards for Hospital Accreditation

EQulP is the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program; a comprehensive set of standards and processes for accreditation developed and conducted by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS). The latest edition for the accreditation of healthcare facilities, EQulP5, was released recently.

EQulP5 contains many more references, both direct and indirect, to spirituality and spiritual care than previous editions.

HCCVI has reviewed the new standards to identify these references and to emphasise the kind of evidence healthcare providers will need to demonstrate in an audit process. To this point, HCCVI has worked through the Standards on Clinical Function (Book 1); the Standards on Support and Corporate Functions (Book 2) have yet to be reviewed.

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Aged Care

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Many issues arise from the review, and the clear implication is that spiritual care is recognised more strongly as a necessary component of holistic care, and so can claim the necessary resources to generate evidence of effective spiritual care that will now be required in the accreditation process. The references to spirituality and spiritual care, both direct and indirect, in the EQulP5 Standards give rise to many useful measurements of effectiveness in the delivery of holistic care that includes spiritual care, for both organisations as a whole and for Pastoral Care Departments. They also raise many issues and questions about resourcing and about collaboration in multidisciplinary approaches, training and other areas.

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy departments are encouraged to use HCCVI's review of the EQulP5 Standards to evaluate their effectiveness in the delivery of spiritual care, and as a guide to generating and maintaining the evidence that will support their organisation's accreditation process.

Other news from the Education & Training sector at HCCVI:

- ❖ A Glossary of key terms, (link) such as Spirituality, Religion, Spiritual/Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy is now on the website.
- ❖ Our new [Training Package for Volunteer Pastoral Care Visitors](#) is now available on the website.
- ❖ The Inter-Church Authority program has been discontinued, as the general expectation for all practitioners of spiritual care to be able to respond to basic spiritual needs across a range of traditions has grown. This expectation will be reflected in the review of the Capabilities Framework which is under way. There is [further information](#) on our website.
- ❖ A range of tertiary education initiatives in spiritual care is under way. Dr Bruce Rumbold has proposed a new spirituality stream as part of LaTrobe University's Master of Health Science program, and Melbourne College of Divinity is exploring the possibility of ASPEA's supervisory training being accredited to their courses.



**Jacqueline Taylor**  
Manager - Aged Care &  
Community Services

#### **Aged Care & Community Services ...**

### *Spirituality in Aged Care pilot*

HCCVI would like to hear from residential aged care facilities or providers of aged care community services who would like to be involved in piloting our Spirituality in Aged Care training package for staff and volunteers. This ground breaking training package was recently developed under the Department of Health's Count Us In! initiative.

The education package is designed for staff and volunteers of residential aged care facilities to develop a shared

understanding of a contemporary model of spirituality and how to attend to the spiritual needs of individual residents. It will develop a skill-set that will empower staff to work collaboratively to respond to those needs or to find appropriate referral pathways.

Click [here](#) to learn about the background to the project. (If you would like to find out more about the pilot program please contact [Jacqueline Taylor](#), Manager- Aged Care and Community Services.)

### *Aged Care Special Interest Group*

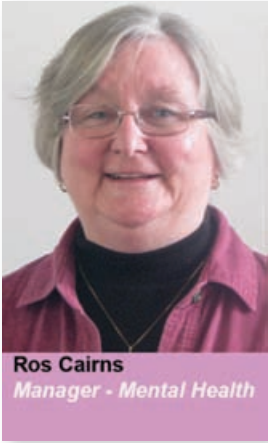
HCCVI Aged Care Special Interest Group provides support for coordinators of spiritual and pastoral care services in the aged care sector. Meetings provide an opportunity for networking and to share information and ideas about the development, coordination and management of service delivery. The group meets four times each year at the HCCVI's offices at 74a Islington St in Collingwood. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday November 30, 9.30-10.30 am. Please, email [Jacqueline Taylor](#) if you would like to receive an invitation to attend, or if you would like to receive notes.



*October 23-  
29 2011 is  
International  
Pastoral Care  
Week*

Pastoral Care Week provides an opportunity to promote, explain and celebrate the contribution of spiritual care towards the health and well-being of all people. It is also an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the significant work of pastoral care practitioners. Each year a new theme brings to light a certain aspect of pastoral care as a focus. A new theme invites us to new and creative ways to tell the story of pastoral care. The theme for Pastoral Care Week 2011 is 'Voices Shared'. As part of Pastoral Care week HCCVI will once again be offering a day of reflection on Thursday October 27. Details for this event are available on the HCCVI website.

Free resources for Pastoral Care week can be found at [pastoralcareweek.org](http://pastoralcareweek.org)



### Mental Health ...

## Partnerships

In the area of mental health there has been considerable focus on the development of partnerships to create models of pastoral care and training for mental health services. Training partnerships have been developed with Vicserv and the Australian Catholic University.

An exciting development has been the partnership with South West Health Care, Aspire, Mind Australia, St John of God Health Care and the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria Inc to create a mental health pastoral care position based in Warnambool. This is a full time position responsible for direct

pastoral care service delivery across the region for people experiencing serious mental illness and/or their carers.



### Support and Development ...

## Spiritual care in regional Victoria

The HCCVI Regional and Rural Development Project was instigated as a result of surveys and audits in pastoral care provision conducted by the HCCVI over recent years.

In 2005 an audit of metropolitan hospitals provided some important data regarding current resourcing and minimum recommended ratios for pastoral care services. In 2008 a state-wide survey of metropolitan and rural hospitals gave HCCVI better insights into regional and rural areas and highlighted

the need for support and development in delivering pastoral services in those areas. The HCCVI received funding in July 2009 from the Department of Health so that planning for the three-year project could begin.

The project is now in its third stage where new models of pastoral care delivery and education are being trialled. A Regional Coordinator of Pastoral Care was appointed in June 2011 in the Bass Coast Region providing training, coordination and supervision of pastoral care volunteers who will service Bass Coast Regional Health including its aged care facilities.

Working parties in three Victorian regions have developed action plans to work on key priorities for increasing the provision of spiritual care services.

## Loddon Mallee finalises priorities

The Loddon Mallee Pastoral/Spiritual Care in Health Working Party consists of stakeholders from across the region working collaboratively towards the promotion, development and delivery of pastoral care in health care settings across the Loddon Mallee (LM) region. The working party is in the process of finalising their Priorities Action Plan which identifies the following priorities for the LM region:

- ❖ Promotion of spirituality in healthcare
- ❖ Understanding pastoral care and developing sensitivity to spiritual issues
- ❖ Networking and Resourcing
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Mental Health pastoral care

The Plan also identifies objectives and strategies to achieve these towards its successful implementation.

*On our website*

[Employment vacancies](#)

[Upcoming conferences](#)

[Training opportunities](#)



## *Loddon Mallee Working Party*

From left, Irene Nolan (private practitioner), Rex Fisher (Bendigo Health), Denis Byrne (St John of God Hospital), Christine Hennequin (HCCVI), Robyn Moylan (Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Services), Jacqueline Taylor (HCCVI), and David Jenkins (Loddon Mallee Palliative Care).

## *New model of care in Gippsland*

The pastoral care volunteers program at Bass Coast Regional Health began on June 6. Since then there has been an overwhelming response of enthusiasm and positive anticipation from all departments and facilities. From the very outset, Bass Coast Regional Health staff have been amazed and encouraged by the initiative, which originated from the ICC – the Inter-church Council of Wonthaggi and Inverloch. This has given this program a solid footing and credibility.

Sourcing volunteers has begun and to date there are over 47 names on this list.

The first introductory session has been held and all those who attended are clearly excited about their involvement as well as experiencing a sense of privilege to be participating in such a valuable work. Volunteers will be 'companioning' residents and patients across all of BCRH services: aged care, hospital, community and family services.

## *Update from Barwon South Western*

The Barwon South Western Working Party has been discussing key priorities to work towards and how best to address these.

Priorities for this region cover the following areas

- ❖ Highlighting the importance of pastoral/spiritual care within healthcare.
- ❖ The provision of education for pastoral care practitioners, volunteers and healthcare professionals
- ❖ Raising awareness to promote pastoral/spiritual care
- ❖ HCCVI funding for research
- ❖ Collaboration with important networks

At present Geelong and Warrnambool are preparing for the celebration and promotion of Pastoral Care Week (October 23-29) capturing a much wider range of people within pastoral/spiritual care practice to join in the event than in previous years.

Our current members are Rosemary Maries (PC Coordinator and Anglican Chaplain Barwon Health, who is our Secretary), Sally Wall (Transcend Manager, Karingal), Phil Hose (Aspire State Manager), Denise Naish, Uniting Church Portland, Ros Cairns (Manager – Mental Health, HCCVI), Christine Hennequin (Manager – Support and Development, HCCVI) and Marjorie Crothers (Chaplain, South West Health Care Palliative Care).