

Health Services Innovation Grant Program – Round 1

Early Intervention in Cancer Control

Ms Eileen Friedlieb - Riverina Division of General Practice and Primary Health

This initiative piloted a model where newly diagnosed patients were provided with support by a Cancer Intake Officer. The officer based at the Division of General Practice assisted in bridging the gap between initial cancer diagnosis and the commencement of treatment.

Collaboration between Comma and Monaro Oncology Services- A Shared Care Model of Service

Ms Chris Packer - Greater Southern Area Health Service and Monaro Committee for Cancer Research (Cooma)

A sustainable oncology “shared care” service has been established in Cooma which allows patients to access services closer to home, that meet chemotherapy treatment standards and ensure optimal patient outcomes.

Clinical Networks for Cancer and Palliative Care Services

Ms Ruth Jones - Greater Western Area Health Service

A Cancer and Palliative Care Clinical Network has been initiated by Greater Western Area Health Service. The aim of the network is to provide a means of efficiently using scarce specialist expertise and to assist in standardising and improving access to care.

Redesigning Psycho-social care Routine Screening with QUICA TOUCH

Dr Kerrie Clover - Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Hunter New England Area Health Service

This pilot model reports on the impact of streamlined routine screening for pain, psychosocial distress and physical symptoms among oncology outpatients using “QUICA –TOUCH” (Quick Individually Customised Assessment using Touchscreens).

Aboriginal Cancer Care Co-ordinator

Mr Michael Langford - Hunter New England Area Health Service

This project looked at the impact of employing an Aboriginal Cancer Care Coordinator in providing a more coordinated approach to cancer care for Indigenous people in the Hunter New England Area. The position aimed to improve the care, accessibility and acceptability of cancer services for Indigenous people through a co-ordinated culturally appropriate approach.

Implementation of GP Telecolposcopists in Rural Centres

Ms Maggi Daley - Hunter New England Area Health Service

This initiative examined the feasibility of the establishment of Telecolposcopy Clinics in outlying centres within HNE, and progress initiatives to move towards clinic implementation. Using telemedicine technology, cervical images would be transferred from rural GP telecolposcopy clinics to specialist gynaecologists in larger centres for review. The development of the clinics and use of technology in this manner aims to increase the access of rural and remote women to specialist services with the aim of reducing cervical cancer.

Expanding Psycho-oncology Support to Rural Areas

Dr Catherine Adams - Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Hunter New England Area Health Service

The project addressed the imbalance between the need for psychosocial support for people with cancer and the limited availability of trained professionals in rural areas. The program enhanced existing links and provided training in psycho-oncology and ongoing support to rural psychology staff to enable more timely and appropriate access to psychosocial support to rural based patients and their families.

Pilot program to Implement the Role of Clinical Radiation Therapist

Mr Craig Everitt - North Coast Area Health Service

This project piloted a program to assist in alleviating the national workforce shortage of Radiation Oncologists by delegating tasks to an appropriately trained Radiation Therapist. The rationale for developing the model was primarily to alleviate the national workforce shortages of Radiation Oncologists. The model aimed to assist with the shortages of Radiation Oncologists and enhance the job satisfaction of Radiation Therapists.

Physician Assistant and Treatment Co-ordinator in Haematology

Dr Chris Arthur and Linda Nolasco- Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service

This initiative has trialled the introduction of a newly appointed position titled "Physician Assistant/Treatment Coordinator". The establishment of this role aims to improve the efficiency of the cancer specialist and enhance patient outcomes.

Radiation Therapist led Treatment Reviews

A/Prof Michael Back - Northern Sydney Cancer Centre, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service (NSCCAHS)

This project aimed to optimise the quality of patient care during radiation therapy by using Radiation Therapists rather than Radiation Oncologists to lead weekly reviews. The model was undertaken to streamline care pathways for patients with standard treatment indications, formally direct specialised medical care to those patients at greatest need and improve manpower efficiencies and cost effectiveness within radiation therapy units.

Integrated Regional Cancer Transport Services Model

Mr Brendan Bird - Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service (NSCCAHS)

This project aims to develop a scope to contribute to building a comprehensive cancer transport service model for cancer patients on the Central Coast of NSW.

Patient Navigator Breast Care

Ms Catherine Murphy - Sydney Adventist Hospital

The new role of Patient Navigator was initiated at Sydney Adventist Hospital to help breast cancer patients 'navigate' their treatment path through the various cancer tests, treatments and services, and to provide emotional support for the patients and their families.

Development, Implementation and Co-ordination of a Web Based Electronic Shared Diary for Rural Cancer Patients

Dr Mark Stevens - Riverina Cancer Care Centre

The project developed and implemented a web-based electronic shared diary for patients at the Riverina Cancer Care Centre. The overall aim of this initiative was to use web based technology for efficient and better coordinated care pathways for cancer patients.

Proposal for Improving Palliative Care Clinical Information Management by Enhancing Palliative Care Systems

A/Prof Richard Chye - South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAHS)

This initiative was to further enhance the current Palliative Care Systems (PCS) already in use within the SESIAHS. PCS aims to improve the efficiency of information available to Palliative Care professionals and assists in meeting the needs of patients and ensuring optimal outcomes.

Development and Implementation of an Integrated Electronic Learning Management System (Cancer Solutions) in a Comprehensive Cancer Hospital Network

Mr Chris Sargeant -South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAHS)

The Cancer Solutions™ project has involved the development, implementation and evaluation of a web based learning management system (LMS) (<http://moodle.educan.com.au>) for staff within Cancer Services, CHN, SESIAHS. The program serves as a guide and tool for the coordination of staff learning and development across disciplines as well as a central portal for organisational knowledge management.

Establishment of a Pilot Program to Evaluate Weight Loss Prognostic Indicators

Ms Wendy Jongs & Mr Bill Zafiropoulos - Sydney South West Area Health Service Cancer Services (SSWAHS)

This pilot program established a multidisciplinary Cancer Nutrition Rehabilitation Clinic for patients with anorexia/cachexia or cancer cachexia syndrome (weight loss in advanced cancer).

Implementation of an Acute Ambulatory Nursing Assessment Unit

A/Prof. Stephen Della-Fiorentina -Sydney South West Area Health Service Cancer Services (SSWAHS)

This project reports on an acute ambulatory nursing assessment unit which has been established within the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre. The aim of this unit has been to reduce/eliminate patient presentations to emergency departments for management of treatment toxicity and symptoms of disease.

Implementation of Touchscreen - Quality of Life Assessment in Clinical Practice

Dr Weng Ng - Sydney South West Area Health Service Cancer Services (SSWAHS)

This initiative enhances routine patient care by implementing PRO Health Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) assessments for all patients at each clinic visit. The

assessment allows for prompt identification of symptoms which can impact on quality of life of cancer patients such as distress, pain, anorexia, nausea and vomiting.

End of Life Care Project

Ms Trish O'Hara - Sydney South West Area Health Service Cancer Services (SSWAHS)

This End of Life Project is a collaborative initiative between Liverpool Hospital and SSWAHS Palliative Care (Western Zone) to improve the care of dying patients and their families through implementation of a clinical pathway and education package for staff.

Enhancement of Palliative Care Management Information System (PCMIS)

Mr James Nguyen & Dr Frank Formby - Sydney South West Area Health Service Cancer Services (SSWAHS)

This project refined and enhanced a Palliative Care Management Information System (PCMIS) which had previously been developed by the former South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS). When the initiative is complete it will improve availability of patient information and allow for all palliative care clinical staff to access patient information from outside of the hospital.

Drug Project

Dr Lakshmi Venkatesawen - Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS)

In this project drug usage has been assessed through data collection over a twelve month period. The data will be analysed to improve management of drug usage and expenditure across the network. Results from this study will be used to identify areas for review in usage and prescribing practice.

Pathology Ordering Project

Dr Bo Gao - Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS)

Pathology test ordering patterns across the Sydney West Area Health Service have been assessed and reviewed in this project. The data collected will assist with the development and implementation clinical guidelines for the frequency of ordering of selected tests.

Improving Medication Access and Management for Palliative Care Patients

Ms Yee-Ching Ng - Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS)

The initiative has incorporated Clinical Pharmacy services into the discharge planning process for palliative care patients. The addition of pharmacy input into this process aimed to improve medication access and continuity in medication management for palliative care patients.

Health Services Innovation Grant Program Round 2

Aboriginal Health and Cancer Services Working Together

Ms Victoria Jones - Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS)

The project will support Aboriginal people who seek medical treatment for cancer and subsequent psychosocial care. The overall aim of the project is to improve health outcomes for this population group.

Development and Evaluation of a New Breast Care Nurse Model for Women with Advanced / Metastatic Breast Cancer

Dr Kaaren Watts - The Prince of Wales Cancer Centre, Sydney South Eastern Illawarra Area Health Service (SSEIAHS)

This project will evaluate the potential role and impact of a Specialist Breast Cancer Nurse. This position will be involved with co-ordination and supportive care of women with advanced and metastatic breast cancer during their treatment and disease trajectory.

Radiotherapy Training Network

Dr Denise Lonergan - University of NSW and Royal Australian New Zealand College of Radiologists

The program aims to develop a training network in Radiation Oncology. The network will seek to:

- Improve the efficiency of radiation oncology training by rotating scheme registrars rotate through several different departments throughout their course to enable them to gain broader experience
- Increase metro and rural links through registrar rotations
- Increase the capacity of NSW departments to train radiation oncologists by a shared teaching training program

Volunteer Support for Children and Families Receiving Palliative Care Services at Home

Dr Sharon R Ryan- Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care, Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW)

This program aims to:

- Evolve the role of current paediatric support volunteers both at Bear Cottage and CHW to include supporting families of children receiving palliative care at home
- Develop an ongoing training support program for current and new Palliative Care Volunteers
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Innovation in Breast Cancer Care Expanding the Role of the Breast Physician in the Multidisciplinary Team

Dr Katrina Moore - Royal North Shore Hospital – North Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service (NSCCAHS)

This initiative seeks to optimise the quality of care of breast cancer patients, through the appointment and innovative role development of a Breast Physician within the Multi Disciplinary Team.

Coonamble Project

TBC - Family Planning NSW

The goal of the Coonamble Project is to plan, implement and deliver health promotion and clinical education training and services related to cervical and breast cancer screening for Aboriginal people in the Coonamble area. The project will be run in partnership with the Coonamble Aboriginal Medical Service and Family Planning NSW.

A Rural Oncology Model of care: Guideline and Protocol Development

Ms Ruth Jones - Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS)

The goal of the project is to strengthen an innovative rural cancer model of care, in the absence of a locally based Medical Oncologist. This project will consolidate the current built in mechanism to ensure safe, competent and quality care for people with cancer who are undergoing treatment in the Oncology Unit at Dubbo Base Hospital

Fostering Innovation in Palliative Care Distance Education

Prof Jane Ingham -Cunningham Centre for Palliative Care – Sacred Heart Hospice

This pilot project will initiate an internet and telemedicine based approach to the delivery of ongoing education for rural palliative care nurses in western and south west NSW.

Consumer Participation Program

Ms Emily Philips - Sydney West Cancer Network, Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS)

This project aims to increase opportunities for consumers to become involved in service planning and thereby to gain the benefit of input from a broader base of consumers, by establishing a database of consumers willing to provide feedback on services. In order to encourage participation, consumer involvement will be linked to the opportunity to attend free seminars on topics of interest.

Expansion of QUICA TOUCH

Dr Kerrie Clover - Hunter New England Area Health Service (HNEAHS)

This pilot program aims to build on achievements under Round 1 of the Health Service Innovation Program and streamline routine screening for pain, psychosocial distress and physical symptoms among oncology outpatients by using: "QUICA – TOUCH" (Quick Individually Customised Assessment using Touchscreens).

Round 2 funding for this project will expand achievements and further evaluate the initiative.

Out on a Limb - Border Partnerships for Lymphoedema Support & Training

Ms Kathryn Josselyn - Manager - Border Cancer Collaboration

This collaboration between GSAHS, Border Cancer Collaboration (auspiced by Upper Hume Community Health Service) and Charles Sturt University to aims to:

- Improve access in the Border Region to Lymphoedema assessment and management for cancer patients
- Increase training opportunities for students and health professionals in the speciality of Lymphoedema management



Integrating Area Clinical Cancer Registry Data into a State and National Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcoma Clinical Information System

Dr Val Poxon - Clinical Cancer Registry - Sydney South West Area Health Service (SSWAHS)

This initiative aims to develop and test a pilot model for a web based, interactive clinical management and information system for bone and soft tissue sarcoma. The project will enable clinicians to submit cases for expert multidisciplinary review and to centralise sarcoma data from the various Area clinical cancer registries in NSW.