

NSWOG-Haematology Oncology

Allied Health Education Day 10 September 2009 Evaluation Report

October 2009

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NSWOG-Haematology Oncology Allied Health Education Day Sydney Harbour Marriott 10 September 2009

Evaluation Results

INTRODUCTION

Each tumour stratum New South Wales Oncology Group (NSWOG) was offered the opportunity to hold a Cancer Institute NSW funded clinical forum. The NSWOG-Haematology Oncology elected to use the available funding to hold a Haematology Oncology Allied Health Education day.

Allied health professionals form an integral part of a multidisciplinary approach to the management of patients with haematological malignancies. It was identified that there are minimal educational opportunities for Allied Health Professionals to update their knowledge of haematological cancer. The aim of the day was to provide such an opportunity.

The Education Day was divided into three sessions. In the first two (morning) sessions, expert speakers presented lectures on the basic science, diagnosis and management of haematological cancers. Topics covered included haemopoiesis, leukaemias, lymphomas, multiple myeloma (MM) and plasma cell disorders, and haemopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). The remaining (afternoon) session was devoted to "One Woman's Journey with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia". This was a facilitated hypothetical case study in which an actor was engaged to portray a patient undergoing treatment for Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia with commentary from an expert panel comprising the various professions involved in haematological cancer management. The program is included as Appendix 1.

Participants were asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of the day. The evaluation form is shown in Appendix 2. The evaluation questions explored participants' opinions of the content, presenters, venue, things they liked or disliked and suggestions for further Education Days.

As some groups had indicated the continuing education accreditation points would be offered by their associations even though this event was not certified, certificates of attendance were provided to all attendees.

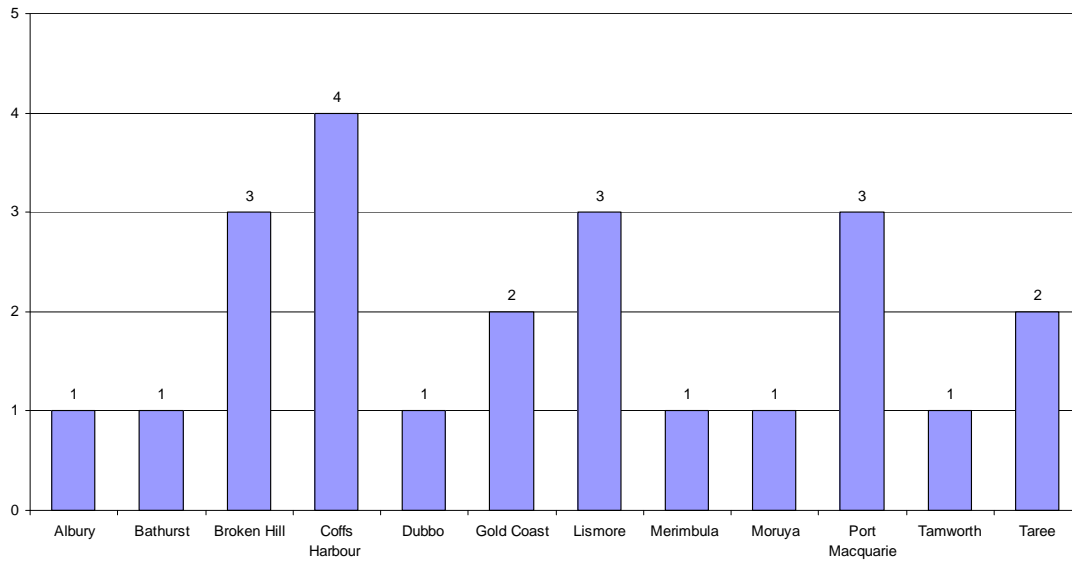
RESULTS

There were 181 attendees on the day out of 196 who booked. 138 participants completed the evaluation form. This was a response rate of 76.2%. Overall, there was overwhelming agreement amongst respondents that the forum was worthwhile to attend, met their educational needs, and provided skills and knowledge that can be applied to their work places. The following provides a brief overview of the results.

Demographics of Attendees

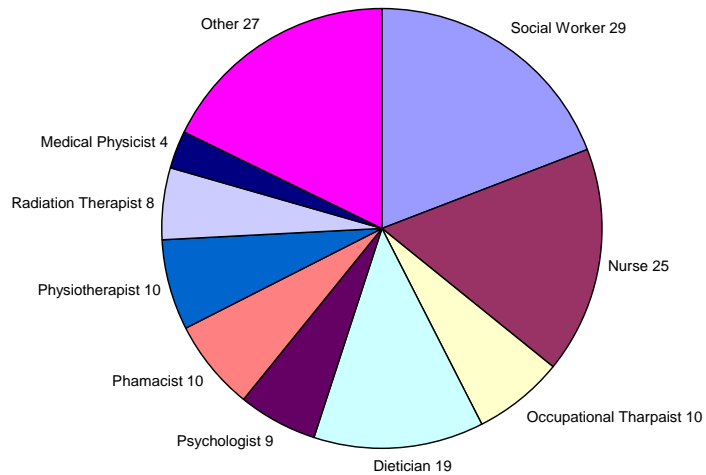
23 out of 181 attendees were from rural or regional areas, excluding Gosford, Newcastle, Wollongong and Canberra. The following chart is a breakdown of the locations of rural attendees.

Allied Health Haematology Education Day Breakdown of Rural Attendees



The following chart presents a breakdown of the registrants by profession.

Registrations by Profession

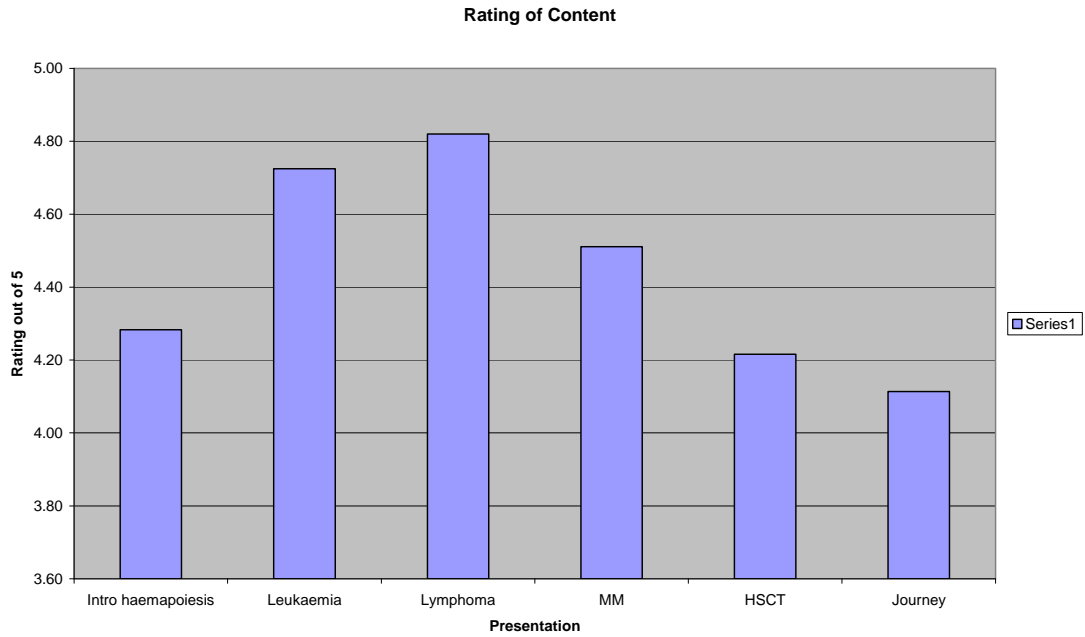


Did the day meet your needs?

In this crucial measure, 92.8% of reported that the day had met their needs, with only 6 out of 138 disagreeing.

Ratings of Content

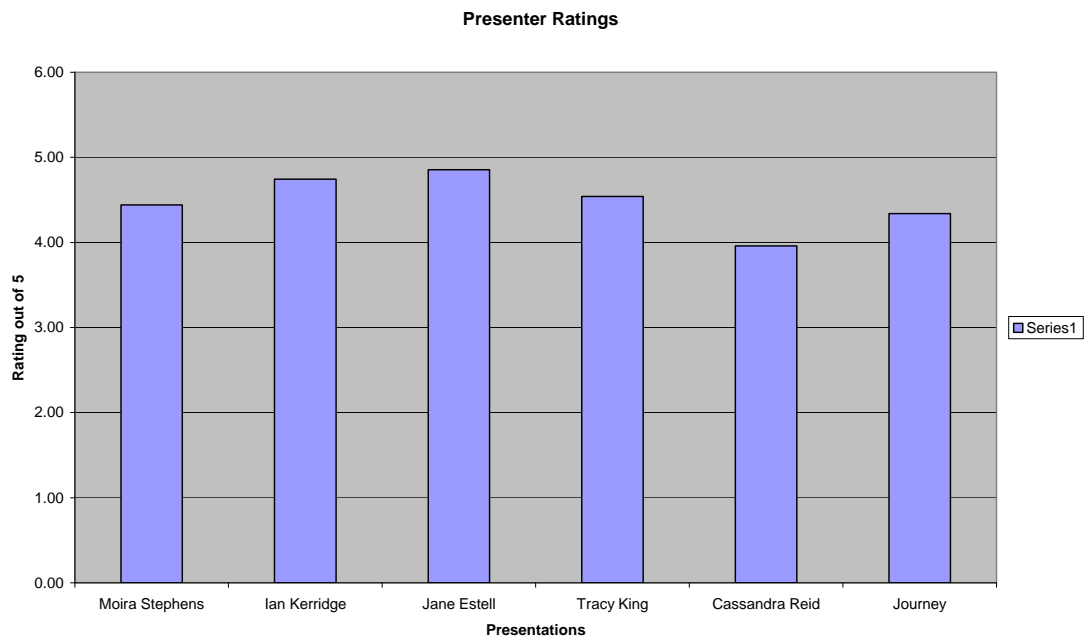
Participants were asked to rate the content of each session from 1 to 5 with 1 being LEAST helpful and 5 being MOST helpful. The results are presented in the chart below. The cumulative mean was 4.44 out of 5.



Ratings Presenters

A list of presenters can be found in Appendix 1 (Program).

Participants were asked to rate the content of each session from 1 to 5 with 1 being LOWEST and 5 being HIGHEST. The results are presented in the chart below. The cumulative mean was 4.48 out of 5.



Ratings of Venue

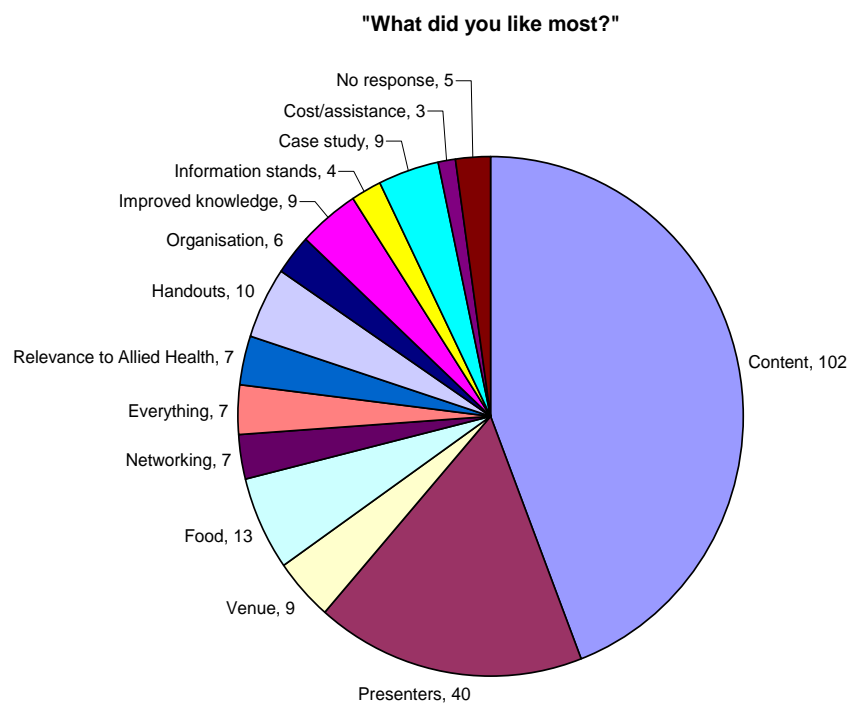
Attendees were asked to separately rate the venue and catering for the day from 1 to 5 with 1 being LOWEST and 5 being HIGHEST. The mean score for the venue was 4.68 out of 5. The mean score for the catering was 4.86 out of 5.

Although the venue rated highly, the room was very crowded and some participants found it hard to see from the rear of the room.

What Participants Liked Most About the Day

Attendees were asked to describe what they liked most about the day. 133 attendees out of 138 responded to this question. Respondents could list multiple items and a total of 226 items were listed.

Responses were thematically analysed and the results are presented in the following chart.

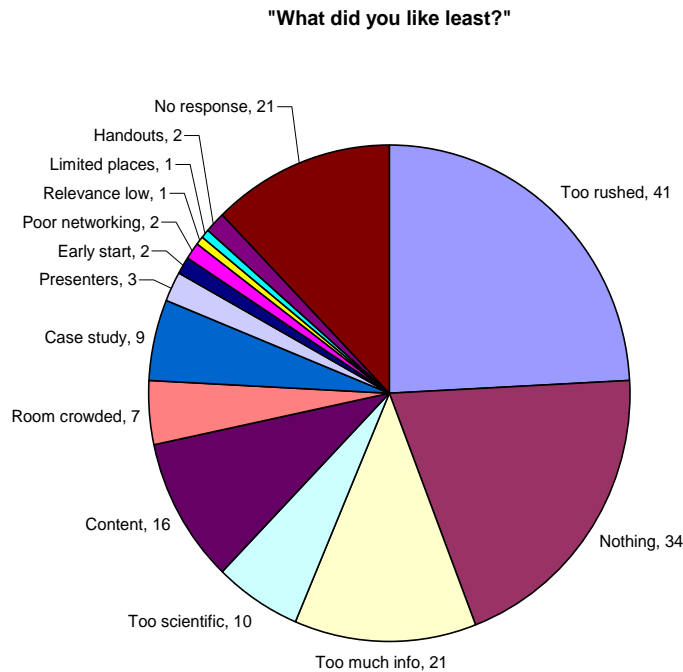


62.8% of responses about what participants liked most related to the content and presenters.

What Participants Liked Least About the Day

Attendees were asked to describe what they liked least about the day. 130 attendees out of 138 responded to this question. Respondents could list multiple items and a total of 170 items were listed.

Responses were thematically analysed and the results are presented in the following chart.

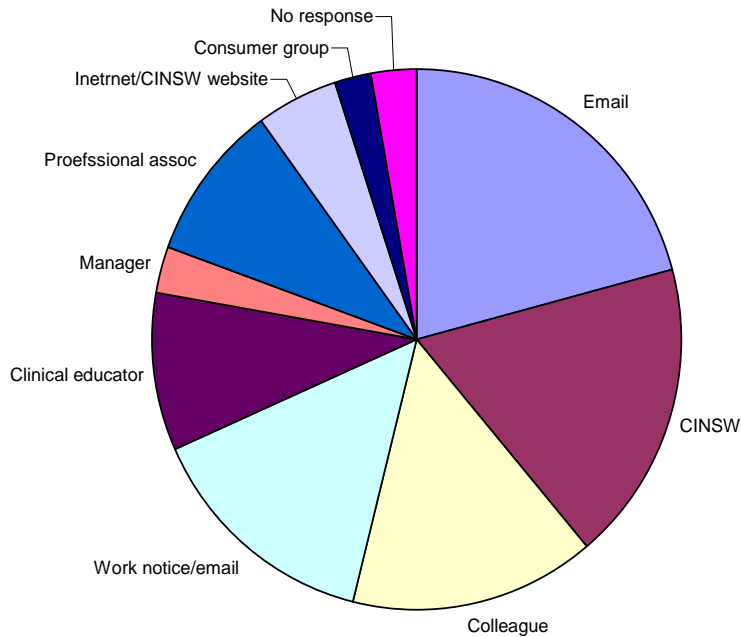


61 out of 170 responses (38.9%) related to the sessions being too rushed and too much content. The day included a huge amount of information in a short time, but this was probably unavoidable given a single day format. 20% of responses were in the category "Nothing".

How Participants Found Out About the Event

Most participants learned about this event from the Cancer Institute NSW, through work/colleagues or via email. A summary is presented in the chart below.

"How did you find out about the event?"



In the months leading up to the event, flyers were sent to all Cancer Service Development Managers (CSDM), some professional associations, some Area Health Service Allied Health Managers and to contacts of the Planning Committee. In all cases, recipients were asked to send flyers on to colleagues and to place them on notice boards.

Suggestions for Improving the Event

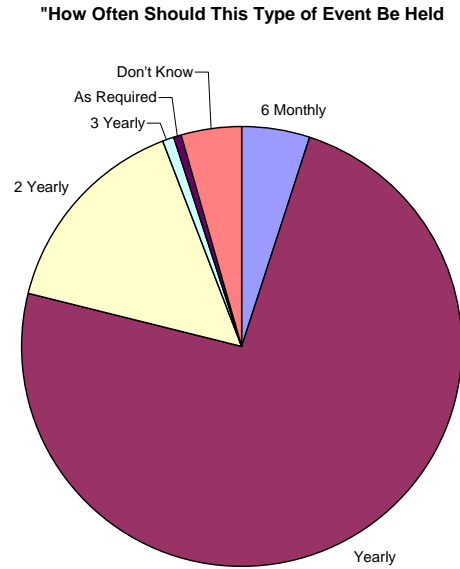
Most suggestions for improving this event were around logistics. The room was clearly too crowded vision from the rear of the room was limited.

Time constraints necessitated a lot of information being crammed into a short time. In retrospect the content would have better suited a two day event, however the budget would have been insufficient for that option. There were comments about the sessions being too long and the lunch break too late in the day.

How Frequently Should These Events Be Held?

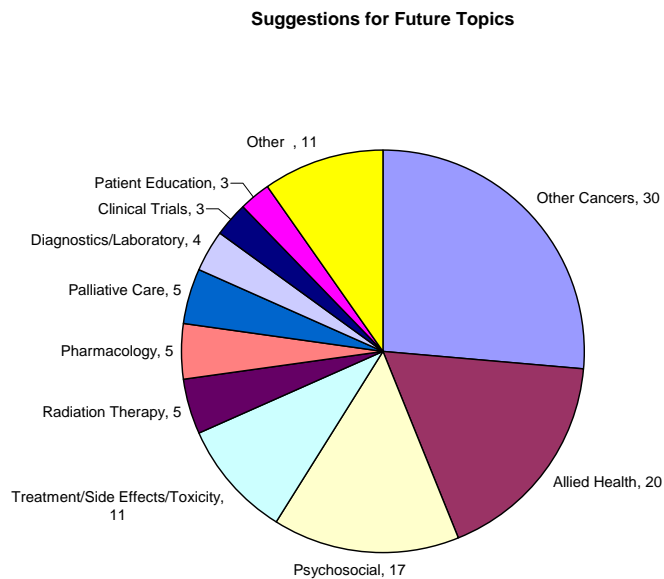
96.4% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in attending another day. The suggested frequency for these types of events is presented in the following chart.

64.6% opted for a yearly event.

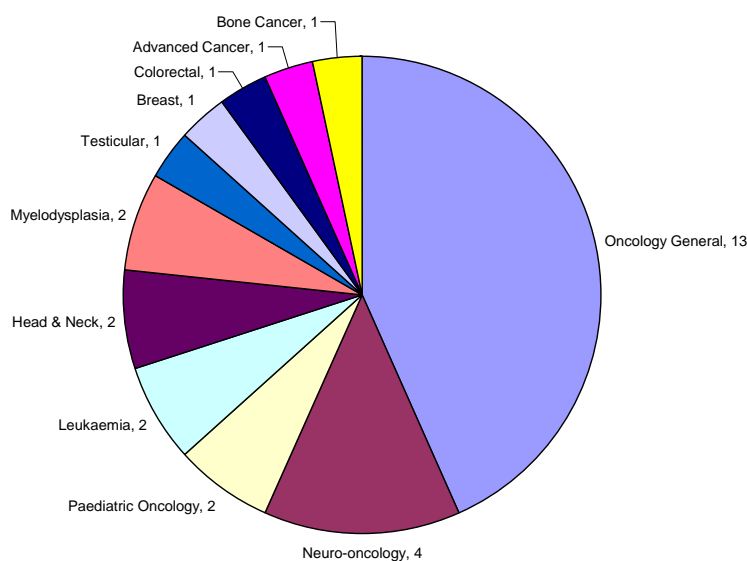


FUTURE TOPICS

More than 100 different topics were identified by respondents. A summary is presented in the following chart.



The most common response was a request for presentations on other specific cancers. These are broken down in the following chart.



The second most popular suggestion was for presentations by Allied Health Professionals working with cancer patients.

OUTSTANDING QUOTES

- *“Thank you fro organising education for allied health – we rarely get the opportunity for free seminars and have great difficulty getting any funding for it from the health service, so sponsorship for this day is much appreciated.”*
- *“Wonderful to be supported – no down side”.*
- *“Location with easy access to transport options.”*
- *“It was awesome to finally have a seminar aimed totally allied health workers.”*
- *“Great to re-learn the physiology and molecular biology of disease that I learnt at uni whilst now actually dealing with those patients in practice.”*

CONCLUSION

The Haematology Oncology Allied Health Education Day was an outstandingly successful event. Comments provided by participants validate the NSWOG assessment that there was a great need to provide an educational opportunity for Allied Health Professionals working with haematological cancer patients. There was a clear preference among participants for this to be a regular event, with most suggesting that something similar should be held every year. For this to take place, consideration would need to be given to private sector sponsorship.

For future events, there is a preference for presentations by Allied Health Professionals on issues arising from working with haematological cancer patients.

The comments also indicate a need for similar education in other tumour streams and focusing on other general topics such as psycho-oncology, pharmacy, radiation therapy and palliative care.

Program

8:00am Registration (*Tea & Coffee*)

8:20am Welcome

8:30am Introduction to haemopoiesis
Ms Moira Stephens, Nursing Program, University of Sydney
Basic haemopoiesis and immunology, basic cell cycle biology and the malignant process within blood cancers.

9:30am Acute & Chronic Leukaemias
A/Prof Ian Kerridge, Haematology Department, Westmead Hospital
General overview of all leukaemias including common presenting factors, diagnostics, demographics, broad treatment pathway, common morbidities, likely survival statistics and future directions.

10:30am Morning Tea (*provided*) & Exhibition Viewing

11:00am Lymphomas
Dr Jane Estell, Haematology Department, Concord Hospital
General overview of Lymphomas including different types, common presenting symptoms, diagnostics, broad treatment pathways, survival statistics and future directions.

11:45pm Myeloma & Plasma Cell Disorders
Ms Tracy King, Myeloma Foundation and RPAH
General overview of plasma cell disorders, focus on myeloma, common presenting symptoms, diagnostics, likely treatment pathway's, morbidities, likely survival stats.

12:30pm Overview of HSCT
Ms Cassandra Reid, BMT Coordinator, RNSH
Overview of the process, indications and rationale for autologous and allograft transplants within malignant haematology.

1.15pm Lunch (*provided*)

2:15pm "One woman's journey with CML"
An interactive story with expert discussion
Information from the morning sessions will be presented in the context of patient experience.

4:30pm Close

One woman's journey with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia

Susan Smith played by Gail Knight

Occupational Therapist - Dawn Hutley

The Occupational Therapist's role at the Cancer Care Centre is to assist with discharge planning to facilitate patient's safe return home and promoting client's independence.

Dietician - Victoria Mitchell

The role of the dietician in haematology oncology incorporates nutritional assessment (physical assessment, biochemical assessment, clinical history, dietary history), the formulation of nutritional care plans and educations of patients and carers in topics such as healthy nutrition, hygienic food handling and other dietary issues related to cancer and its treatment.

Haematologist - A/Prof Chris Arthur

Haematologists are physicians specialising in the study and analysis of blood and blood forming tissues, and associated disorders. This includes the care and treatment of haematological malignancies.

Leukaemia Foundation - Joy Contemplacion

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only not-for-profit organisation in Australia dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Pharmacist - Aisling Kelly

Haematology Pharmacists play an important role in the multidisciplinary team caring for the patient. Pharmacists work closely with the Haematologists and nurses to provide recommendations and advice concerning the prescribing and safe handling of cytotoxic drugs. They also work directly with the patient providing education on their medications and managing side effects.

Physiotherapist - Judy Holland

Physiotherapist's role in haematology is preventing physical decline or starting early rehabilitation after severe illness or decline in health and supporting respiratory function during episodes of respiratory infection.

Psychologist - Nicole Ferrar

Clinical Psychologist in the Psycho-Oncology Service provides therapy and support to haematology inpatients and outpatients, and their families. In particular, providing support to patients during long treatment and transplant admissions, with a focus on anxiety and mood management.

Cancer Nurse Coordinator - Jacqui Jagger

The role of the Cancer Nurse Coordinator is to coordinate the care of patients diagnosed with a haematological cancer, to ensure continuity of care and timeliness of treatment and access to appropriate services based on the patient's individual needs as well as those of the patient's family and carers.

Radiation Therapist - Hahn Vu

The role of the Radiation Therapist is to plan and deliver total body radiation treatment.

Social Worker - Raymond Araullo

The scope of haematology social work includes clinical practice, education, administration and research. Psychosocial services provided by haematology social workers include counselling (individual, couple & family), education, advocacy, discharge planning and community & program development (context dependent). These services are designed to maximise the patient's use of the health care system, promote empowerment and organise community resources in order to support optimal patient/family functioning.

EVALUATION

Cancer Institute NSW

Haematology Oncology Allied Health Education Day

Thursday 10th September 2009

This survey is an opportunity to examine those things we did well and put forward your suggestions to make other similar events rewarding.

Please rate the following sessions from 1-5 (1 being LEAST helpful, 5 being MOST helpful)

Content	Presenter
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Haemapoiesis Ms Moira Stephens
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acute & Chronic Leukaemia A/Prof Ian Kerridge
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lymphomas Dr Jane Estell
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Myeloma & Plasma Cell Disorders Ms Tracy King
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Overview of HSCT Ms Cassandra Reid
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> One woman's journey with CML An interactive story with expert discussion

Please rate the facilities 1-5 (1 being POOR, 5 being EXCELLENT)

Venue

Catering

PTO

1. Did the day meet your needs?

YES
If not, why?

NO

2. How did you find out about the event?

3. What did you like most about the day?

4. What did you like least about the day?

5. What other topics would you like to see covered?

6. Do you have suggestions to improve the day?

7. Would you be interested in attending a similar Education Day in the future?

YES

NO

8. How frequently do you think these types of events should be held?

YEARLY

EVERY 2 YEARS

OTHER (please indicate)

9. Any other comments?

10. What is your role (please tick)?

Dietician

Nurse

Occupational Therapist

Pharmacist

Physiotherapist

Psychologist

Radiation Therapist

Social Worker

Other (please specify)

Thank you for participating in this evaluation