

Public Sector Residential Aged Care Leadership Committee

February 2018

The Committee is focused on building the capacity of public sector employees working in residential aged care facilities to thrive under the reforming aged care system and to embed strategic, planned and sustainable approaches to safe and high-quality care through the provision of training, research and information sharing.

A further description of the Committee's role and priorities can be found on the Committee website home page or via this [link](#).

The membership of the PSRAC Leadership Committee as of February 2018 is:

Name	Position	Organisation
Vicki Farthing	Committee Chair Executive Director of Nursing	Gippsland Southern Health Service
Bernadette Hammond	Committee Interim A/Chair Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Aged Care	Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
Cheyne Chambers	Committee Deputy Chair Executive Director Residential and Support Services/ Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer	Monash Health
Lisa Allen	Committee Treasurer Director Clinical & Aged Services	Tallangatta Health Service
Don McRae	Director of Clinical Services	Wimmera Health Care Group
Chloe Keogh	Director of Clinical Services	Kerang District Health Service
Kathleen Fair	Executive Director of Nursing	Castlemaine Health
Katrina Sparrow	Director of Nursing/Manager	Maldon Hospital
Lisa Pryor	Director Clinical Services	Beechworth Health Service
Kathy Kinrade	Director of Nursing & Midwifery	West Gippsland Healthcare Group

Committee leadership positions are reviewed every two years and are nominated and voted on by Committee members. In January 2018 Don McRae stepped down from his position as Chair and Vicki Farthing was appointed. Due to Vicki's current work commitments, Bernadette Hammond will act as the Chair until further notice.

Committee Projects

The Committee is currently involved in a number of projects and activities, with oversight from sub-committees comprised of Committee members. Current project updates include:

Better Care Better Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) Project:

The Committee's tailored online and onsite training for nursing staff in PSRAC facilities has commenced. This training enhances the skills and competence of nursing staff to screen, assess and care for residents, and to meet the Commonwealth Government's funding requirements.

The Better Care Better ACFI (BCBA) onsite training is a two day workshop delivered throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria. These workshops are facilitated by a lead trainer from AACS and a practicing physiotherapist.

All workshop dates are listed below:

- Melbourne – 14 & 15 November 2017
- Melbourne – 21 & 22 November 2017
- Wangaratta – 4 & 5 December 2017
- Melbourne - 6 & 7 February 2018
- Melbourne – 20 & 21 February 2018
- Warrnambool – 22 & 23 March 2018
- Ararat – 27 & 28 March 2018
- Bendigo – 17 & 18 April 2018
- Traralgon 2 & 3 May 2018
- Melbourne – 16 & 17 May 2018

The training is targeted at nurse managers, educators and other nursing staff with responsibility for resident assessment, care planning and ACFI co-ordination.

At the end of the training, participants will have the knowledge to implement a system that:

- Supports high quality care and quality of life for individual residents; and
- Improves the accountability for care documentation and ACFI claims.

Demand for BCBA training has been high with all 2018 workshops fully booked out. The Committee is currently looking into holding additional BCBA trainings, however this has not yet been confirmed.

eLearning portal:

The Committee has developed an eLearning portal to support the BCBA training program. The portal is free to all PSRAC staff and can be found on the Committee's website or via this [link](#).

The eLearning portal provides a reference for those who attended the course. It consists of a guided training program that can be used by educators and senior staff at the organisation and site level to run the training independently, and provides an ongoing resource 'library' of course materials, reference workbooks and assessments.

Resident acuity workforce modelling for residential care project:

The best method to determine the appropriate size and skills mix of nursing and personal care staff in residential aged care facilities has been the subject of debate for a number of years.

For this reason, the Committee has employed AACS to conduct research into the current methods for assessing staffing capability and to develop an evidence-based model to estimate the number, type and capabilities of staff required to care for a specific group of residents in aged care settings.

AACS completed a pilot study across three low care PSRAC sites and has produced a project report which provides PSRACs with guidance on which staff are required to complete particular activities, as well as indicating the ideal 'person centred care' approach via a roster. It is intended that this approach will ensure residents' preferences will be observed and will improve their quality of life.

The 'Strengthening Clinical Governance in Low Care PSRACs' report was finalised in January 2018 and will be sent to public sector CEOs and DONs with an interest in residential aged care.

For the next phase of this work, AACS and the Committee will be developing a web-based tool to assist PSRACs to implement the 'Acuity Staffing Model' in their own facilities.

Celebrating Aged Care Week:

Celebrating Aged Care Week has been moved this year and will run from the 10-15th of September 2018. The theme of the campaign is *We Care*, reflecting an appreciation of the public sector residential aged care workforce and the significant role they play in caring for senior Victorians.

The Celebrating Aged Care forum and awards ceremony will be held on Thursday September 6th in Melbourne, further details on the event will be posted closer to the date.

If you would like further information on how you can participate in Celebrating Aged Care week, please visit the Committee's [website](#).

Consumer journey research and 'We Care' branding:

The Committee undertook a project with Dr Paul Harrison from Deakin University Business School to produce the 'Consumer Information Gathering and Decision-Making in Public Sector Residential Aged Care in Victoria' report.

The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) and the Committee are looking at ways to implement the key recommendations from the consumer decision making report.

The VHA proposal is currently with the 'Consumer Journey' sub-committee for final approval. The proposal is expected to be approved and commence in early 2018.

Productive workplace:

This project is currently on hold, an update will be provided on the next communique.

For further information, contact:

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