

Maternity Project Community of Practice (MPCoP) News

Newsletter 2 – September 2008

Who are we?

The Maternity Project Community of Practice (MPCoP) is an informal network of professionals who work on a range of projects which support maternity care services throughout Victoria.

The projects are aligned with Future Directions for Victoria's Maternity Services (Future Directions, 2004), which sets a framework for gradual but strategic development of the state's maternity services. The focus of Future Directions (2004) is on women and supports collaborative teamwork between maternity care professionals to provide maternity services which:

- are safe and high quality
- promote primary maternity care with support from and referral to medical expertise when required
- make the best use of complementary professional skills
- enhance a team approach
- provide women with choice

Some projects are directly funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services (Department) and other projects are initiated by individual health services.

For further information about Future Directions see www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare

To enquire about the MPCoP contact Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au

What do we do?

The MPCoP:

- Publishes this newsletter twice a year to provide updated information about our projects for our colleagues working across maternity care services in Victoria
- **meets quarterly** to exchange information, share ideas and learnings, promote synergy between maternity projects, and provide peer support to project staff.
- Facilitates an **annual Twilight Forum**, which may be of interest to the wider maternity service network (see www.3centres.com.au for information on recent presentations.)



What's on?

The Maternity Coalition and the Australian College of Midwives, Victoria Branch are hosting a symposium on the 31 October 2008 called "**Having a baby in Victoria to Future Directions and beyond**". For details: www.maternitycoalition.org.au/symposium

The next MPCoP meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November 2008, from 9-11am at the Kathleen Syme Education Centre (KSEC2). 251 Faraday Street, Carlton.



What's new?

The Victorian Tobacco Control Strategy (2008-2013)

The Department's Public Health Branch launched the Tobacco control Strategy in August 2008. The strategy includes a target to decrease smoking in pregnancy in Victoria by 50%. The Department estimates that 9% of women continue to smoke through pregnancy, and approximately 235 preterm births in Victoria each year are attributed to the risk of smoking in pregnancy. Supporting women to decrease smoking in pregnancy we will achieve significant improvements in health for their babies, the women and their families.

The Department is working with an expert working group and corresponding members to develop an action plan which spans across the maternity care pathway (and beyond), and includes development of culturally appropriate programs for indigenous women.

For further information or to provide input, please see the consultation submission guide on:

www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms

National Maternity Services Discussion Paper

The Health Minister Nicola Roxon launched a discussion paper on improving maternity services in Australia on the 10th September 2008, see: <http://www.health.gov.au/maternityservicesreview>

Submissions are due by Friday 31 October 2008, and can be made by emailing services.review@health.gov.au, or mailing

The Secretariat
Maternity Services Review
MDP 94, GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Victorian Newborn Resuscitation Project (VNRP)

The VNRP is a 12 month project, funded by the Department and auspiced by NETS-Vic which aims to develop & implement a multidisciplinary, standardised teaching program for newborn resuscitation in Victoria.

The VNRP will be a short course that is:

- suitable for multidisciplinary participants
- based on active learning principles
- uses web-based tools & pre-reading
- builds on existing educational resources
- supported by literature review & business analysis
- accredited with relevant bodies for CPD & MOPS purposes
- applicable to both experienced & new staff cohorts
- designed to incorporate new evidence-based information as needed
- supported by a Train-the Trainer package focusing on teamwork in the newborn resuscitation environment.

The VNRP's implementation includes:

- developing implementation guidelines for state-wide roll-out
- defining numbers of personnel requiring certification & recertification
- recruiting, training & accrediting Trainers & Assessors from a multidisciplinary pool
- arranging for CPD, CME & MOPS points with the relevant professional bodies, for trainers & participants
- identifying & sourcing equipment to support on-going program delivery
- developing a service plan for program delivery, with capacity for re-certifications on a 5 year cycle.

Current newborn resuscitation training always involves the use of some level of simulation, generally at a low-fidelity level. The increasing availability of high-fidelity simulation manikins, equipment & scenarios is being considered.

The VNRP will shortly go live on its website (www.NeoResus.org.au).

Dr Michael Stewart, Director, NETS-Vic is the VNRP Director.

Contact: Dr Julie Shaw, Project Manager at julie.shaw@netsvic.org.au, on telephone 9344 3461 or mobile 0412 036 474.

What's going on in the Department?

Maternity Services Program

Consultations with maternity services across Victoria are underway to assess progress against implementation of Future Directions. Information on changes implemented, plans for the next one to two years and barriers to implementation have been requested from health services. The Department is committed to supporting health services in implementing Future Directions and overcoming barriers to implementation.

The Maternity Workforce Strategy is being developed in collaboration with Nurse Policy Branch, the Maternity & Newborn Clinical Network, Rural Branch, and Service & Workforce Planning Branch that will build on existing strategies and policy directions from across the Department. It will have a state wide multidisciplinary approach with a dual focus on recruitment and retention and the optimal use of workforce skill mix.

Options for the expansion of publicly funded antenatal care are also being explored in consultation with the Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network, Funding and Health Information Policy Branch, the Statewide Outpatient Program and other stakeholders to support Future Directions policy and demand for maternity services.

Contact Julie Jenkin, Manager, Maternity Services 03 9096 0109

Brief maternity project updates:

The Victorian Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network (MNCN)

The MNCN held eight clinical fora around the state from May to August 2008. The purpose was to develop the initial work plan and to allow health professionals to work together to raise local issues of importance. 1090 issues were raised of which 20% were given high priority ratings. These issues were analysed using grounded theory and the emergent themes fell into the following broad categories.

1. Understanding **service capability** across the system.
2. **Collaborating across the system.** Suggestions included staffing clinicians to work across organisational boundaries, bringing clinicians together on collaborative initiatives, the three tertiary centres leading collaborative initiatives, developing work teams with clinical expertise to take care of women and babies in preference to transfer.
3. **Improving consistency across the system.** Suggestions included developing clinical practice guidelines, decision making aids (clinical, escalation, referral), documentation tools, audit tools, processes for peer/practice review (links with collaboration and capability), and using information technology (links with use of data)
4. **Provide education** to maximise the capability of clinicians to their full scope of practice (midwives, nurses, GP proceduralists in particular). A single web-based system linked to available perinatal education was widely supported across the state so that clinicians could be aware of courses available, with a tracking mechanism to record which health services have accessed education modules.
5. **Establish Data systems** to manage above mentioned systems issues and build on existing platforms to address some of the issues raised. For example, contemporaneous data collection at point of patient contact that is accessible across the state.

Some of these issues are being addressed by other sections of the Department whilst others were developed into project concepts for the MNCN to address. The MNCN Leadership Group has endorsed three initial projects for which project plans are now being developed.

The Victorian Clinical Networks will soon have their own website with a link to the MNCN pages. An email will be circulated once site development is completed.

Contact: Glenda.mcdonald@dhs.vic.gov.au

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Victorian Maternity Services Education Program (MSEP)

The MSEP team have facilitated seven workshops during 2008, with the majority conducted in primary and secondary services in remote and rural Victoria. Site visits and planning are underway for further programs in 2008 and early 2009.

MSEP welcomes Clinical Midwife Educator, Caprice Gellman, who recently joined the program and will work predominately in the Maternity Emergency program. Program facilitators are in the process of developing a number of clinical education tools which will be available to services in the coming months.

Bree Bulle, is presenting an overview of the Maternity Emergency Program at the 6th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care being held in Christchurch, September 2008. Bree is also presenting in conjunction with Ambulance Victoria at the Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives 14th National Conference being held in Adelaide, November 2008.

Contact: Bree.Bulle@thewomens.org.au

Contact: Caprice.Gellman@thewomens.org.au

Fetal Surveillance Education Program (FSEP)

In May 2008 the FSEP launched it's highly anticipated Online Program (OFSEP). OFSEP is being offered free of charge to those hospitals who continue to engage in FSEP face to face education sessions. The OFSEP is a comprehensive program which covers a variety of fetal surveillance information including, fetal physiology, the normal CTG, the abnormal CTG, maternal heart rate monitoring, clinical cases, sample questions and more!

Contact: Holly Coppen on 9412 2958

A New approach to psychosocial support in pregnancy (ANEW)

2008 has seen ANEW delivered to LaTrobe Regional Hospital, Mercy Hospital for Women and Werribee Mercy. The year will finish with courses in Bendigo Health and The Royal Woman's Hospital at its new location in Parkville.

We facilitated a three hour communication skills workshop the nursing faculty of LaTrobe University, concentrating on practicing skills. The session received positive evaluation and has been requested on an annual basis. In 2009, we aim to return to organisations who had received the ANEW education in 2007/08 as most places have been thrilled with the course and requested further courses.

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Contact: LLove@mercy.com.au

3Centres Collaboration

The tertiary maternity services are reviewing their role in conjunction with the MNCN and other key stakeholders.

In 2008 3centres has worked with tertiary services to audit emergency caesarean sections in nulliparous women. The audit builds on previous work which identifies emergency caesarean sections in this group as the greatest contributor to the overall increasing caesarean section rate. We aim to publish the findings and stimulate discussion about initiatives which may support clinical decision-making around appropriate and safe interventions in birth.

3centres are assisting with updating the Cochrane Review on "Interventions to Promote Smoking Cessation in Pregnancy" and are members of the Antenatal Smoking Cessation Working Group, currently assisting the Department develop an action plan for implementing the new Tobacco Control Policy (2008-2013).

Contact: Cath Chamberlain on 9594 7734

