

NCAHA NEWS

Your monthly communication from the
North Coast Allied Health Association



Message from the Board

**Professor Susan Nancarrow,
Chair, NCAHA Board**



North Coast Primary Health Network's Allied Health workforce mapping survey has now closed. Analysis and a final report is underway. The aim was to learn more about North Coast Allied Health Professionals who are not working for the Local Health Districts. We need to enhance our understanding of the Allied Health workforce and the vital role you play in creating a truly integrated health system. We will continue to push for Allied Health Professionals to be recognised as an important and valued part of the health system.

Allied Health services are a significant component of primary, community and acute health care. Yet there is no reliable source of Allied Health workforce data. The limitations of the existing Allied Health workforce data are recognised at state and national levels. There is no consistent information available about the size of the Allied Health workforce, settings and turnover patterns.

Fortunately, I have been involved in the Victorian Allied Health Workforce research project as Southern Cross University has been engaged to undertake this work. The survey and focus groups are exploring:

- Individual experiences and characteristics of past and present employment, factors influencing individual career pathways, and issues likely to influence future career decisions.
- Workforce size and location of responding organisations, perceptions of clinical and non-clinical skill gaps, capacity

to meet service demand, and recruitment and retention processes and issues.

The outcomes of the Victorian Allied Health research project will be pivotal in guiding future government policy decisions. It has already informed a number of important initiatives in Victoria, including the Allied Health Careers Pathways Project and the creation of 20 new senior jobs for Allied Health Professionals. We look forward to the day that we have a similar understanding of the Allied Health workforce on the North Coast.

SARRAH (Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health) is currently recruiting a new CEO to be responsible for implementing a new and exciting strategic direction. We wish SARRAH well in this endeavour.

Finally, we understand that those who attended the 'Art and Science of Client Relationships' on 23 September at Byron Bay provided very positive feedback. We'd like to thank our partners, Sean Tonnet and the Australian Musculo-Skeletal Network, who enabled this workshop to be delivered.

If you are having a break to enjoy some time with your family during the school holidays, I hope it is safe, enjoyable and memorable. Best wishes until next edition.

Adam Jorgensen, Podiatrist

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Queensland, Adam explored potential health career paths and enrolled in QUT's Applied Science Podiatry degree.



"As an undergraduate, I'd attended some of the same classes as the medical, physio, OT and vet science students and that got me thinking about health careers. Podiatry seemed quite an unusual area with good employment opportunities and a chance to travel and work," he explained.

After graduating from QUT, Adam worked as a locum in the High-Risk Foot Clinic at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

"I was really waiting for offers from the many job applications I had sent overseas. I was finally offered a job in the National University Hospital in Singapore, charged with starting a Podiatry service. My contract was for two years and I stayed for almost 20."

With Singapore offering a well-funded health care system with highly trained health professionals, Adam learnt an enormous amount across a broad range of conditions.

"It was a magnificent experience in clinical Podiatry with a plethora of diabetic foot disease, rheumatology, Paediatric Podiatry as well as Sports Podiatry. I was a pioneer of the profession in Singapore, only the fourth Podiatrist in the country. We were heavily involved in public and health care education as well as the development of national policies, guidelines and a professional association."

In 2004 Adam branched into private practice, starting with his own clinic, and eventually expanding to three clinics and four Podiatrists.

"I also created an orthotics workshop supplying orthoses to hospitals and other private practices in Singapore. And during this time I started a family."

In 2013, with Singapore becoming ever more crowded and the growing stresses of the local schooling system, Adam's family opted for a sea change and decided to make the Northern Rivers home. He felt it provided the best environment, work opportunities, schools and services.

Adam found work with Rightfoot Podiatry and Footwear, a practice with 12 clinics from Brisbane to Yamba, and an orthotic and footwear workshop.

Working with Rightfoot allowed Adam to work not only in its clinics, but also in nursing homes, patients' homes and at Aboriginal Medical Services. He particularly enjoyed working at the 'fabulous' Jullums Aboriginal Medical Service in Lismore.

Last year Adam became a director of Rightfoot Podiatry and Footwear and is enjoying the challenges of this role. He finds it a real pleasure to come to work each day to work with a team of enthusiastic and talented Podiatrists and support staff.

He's also gone back to pursue more study.

"To add another string to my bow I am undertaking studies at Southern Cross University in Pedorthics (Orthopaedic Footwear making). I have always had an interest in footwear and how it influences the management of all foot problems," he said.

For Adam, his prime work satisfaction comes from providing the best outcomes for his patients.

"We all love seeing our patients get better. It always feels great when a patient thanks you for helping them. I also get great satisfaction in interacting with other professionals and staff in the health care sector.

"I have wonderful memories from my early days in Singapore talking endlessly to the public, patients, other health professions and administrators about how we could help. Being involved in the development of a successful hospital Diabetic Foot Team and spreading the Diabetic Footcare gospel across Asia was particularly satisfying."

While no particular case stands out in his career, Adam has great memories of many patients over the past 23 years. And he is pleased that the North Coast Allied Health Association works to support and champion Podiatrists and allied health practitioners in this region.

"I think we can feel a bit isolated in this area in comparison to our big city colleagues, but in some ways we have an even more important role in our client's health care because of that very isolation," he said.

After the Flood - Community Survey

The flood of April 2017 will long live in the memories of the Northern Rivers community because of its size and how quickly the water came into homes and businesses.

Floods can have a major impact on people's wellbeing for a long time. The University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH) is working with other local organisations and community members to assess the impact of the April flood on the wellbeing of people in our region. This information will help prepare for future floods. It will also inform health and social support services about the needs of the community.

To help inform this research, UCRH would appreciate you filling out the online survey. The survey is for all community members from Evans Head to Tweed Heads, whether or not flood affected. This will be the start of long-term research into the effects of flood on the people of the Northern Rivers.

The coordinator of the UCRH Flood Project research team, Dr Veronica Matthews, explained the survey's relevance to their research.

"It's about gathering information about how the community is going six months after the flood. We want to build a picture of the mental health and wellbeing issues in the population so we can ensure relevant services are available to community members now and into the future.

"We'll also be presenting the survey results and recommendations arising from the information gathered back to the community."

To fill out the survey visit: <http://bit.ly/2ww6XOg>



COPD HealthPathways Undergo Review

In order to maintain accuracy and quality, each pathway on the Mid and North Coast HealthPathways website undergoes a formal review every two years. The review involves input from GPs, specialists and subject matter experts (SMEs) from across our health care community. Services information in the referral section is also revised with input from SMEs and the program support team. To finalise a pathway review, the clinical editors review all feedback and changes from the reviewers and work with SMEs to draft an updated version of the pathway. The final updated pathway is reviewed by the HealthPathways clinical leads before being published to our live site.

About COPD

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a long-term disease of the lungs which causes shortness of breath. While COPD currently has no cure, there are things that people can do to breathe easier, keep out of hospital and improve quality of life.

COPD is the second leading cause of avoidable hospital admissions. 14.5% or one in seven Australians aged 40 years or over have airflow limitation of their lungs and this figure increases to 29.2% in Australians 75 years or over. 7.5% of Australians aged 40 or over have COPD that has progressed sufficiently to where symptoms may already be present and affecting daily life.

The recently reviewed COPD HealthPathways provide best practice guidelines on how to identify COPD in your patient. They also provide guidance on patient assessment and

management. The referral sections of these pathways provide information to services that can assist patients to manage the condition.

- **COPD**
- **COPD Flow Chart**
- **Differentiating Asthma from COPD**
- **Exacerbations of COPD**
- **End-Stage/Palliative COPD**
- **COPD Support Networks and Self-Management Skills**
- **Medications in COPD**
- **Inhaled Medications**

Our website currently has over 15 other Allied Health pathways which link the referrer to a range of Allied Health services. Go to the **Allied Health** link to view which services are provided.

If your service is listed on a referral page and there is a change to your service listing, or if you would like your service added, please contact HealthPathways.

To view all Mid and North Coast Localise HealthPathways visit:

<https://manc.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>

Username: manchealth

Password: conn3ct3d

For further information about HealthPathways please contact:

Fiona Ryan
(02) 6583 3600
fryan@ncphn.org.au
(Mid North Coast)

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(07) 5589 0500
kkeyte@ncphn.org.au
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Medicines Information View - My Health Record

The next time you access **My Health Record**, you may notice the new 'Medicines Information' view.

Over the past year, the Australian Digital Health Agency has been working to deliver value in the My Health Record platform. They have consulted with over 140 clinicians and 220 consumers to deliver the best possible outcome with this new release.

The 'Medicines Information' view sorts and displays medicines information held in a patient's My Health Record documents in date or alphabetical order.

GRAPHIC

This data is gathered from:

- the patient's most recent (and up to two years') prescription and dispense records and other PBS claims information
- the patient's most recent shared health summary and discharge summary
- recent event summaries, specialist letters and e-referral notes uploaded to the patient's record since their latest shared health summary
- the patient's personal health summary, which may include any allergies or adverse reactions and other key information

Healthcare providers can benefit from the medicines information view by reducing the time usually required to search through recent summaries or relevant documents to find information about a patient's medications.

The 'Medicines Information' view can also assist in the transition of care and medicines management for patients between their treating doctors and pharmacists.

This view can be found in most clinical information systems (CIS) under the 'Other Documents' list.

For further support, questions or concerns please **contact your CIS software vendor** or call the My Health Record Helpline on 1800 723 471.

If you have any feedback, questions or suggestions for improvement about the new features, please **contact the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA)**.

For any local training or support questions, please contact Tony Browne, Senior Project Officer for Digital Health at **tbrowne@ncphn.org.au**.

Available medicines in this My Health Record - sorted by Date

15 Jun 2017

VIJAY ENGINEER DoB 25 Sep 1958 (58y) SEX Male IHI 8003 6083 3334 9512

START OF DOCUMENT

My Health Record

Available medicines in this My Health Record - sorted by Date

To assist you to find medicines related information in this patient's My Health Record, previews are provided of medicines in documents (where available) with links to the source documents where more detailed information can be obtained.

Important: Some documents do not allow for a preview of medicines information, and should be opened by the links provided. This view should not be wholly relied upon as a complete record of medicines related information.

View generated on 15-Jun-2017 09:13 for medicines, allergy and adverse reactions found in this record.

Allergies and Adverse Reactions

TEST, Latex, Morphia, Morphine, Nickel, Not allergic to amoxil - Amoxil 250mg prescribed, Not allergic to penicillin - Dicloxacillin 500mg qid, Panadol, penecillan, Penicillin, Penicillin allergy, Prozac allergy, Seafood, Tramadol

Click here for [Medicines Preview](#)
05-Mar-2017 to 02-Jun-2017
(13 days ago)

Click here for [Shared Health Summary](#)
05-Mar-2017 (3 months ago)
Author: Own
[Own organisation](#)
tel: (07) 9999 8888

Click here for [Discharge Summary](#)
17-May-2017 (4 weeks ago)
Author: Own
[Own organisation](#)

* More recent than the Shared Health Summary

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All available Allergies and Adverse Reactions 02-Jun-2008 to 02-Jun-2017 (13 days ago)

Source/Author	Date	Substance/Agent	Manifestation(s)
Patient-entered information	02-Jun-2017 (13 days ago)	TEST	'
Patient-entered information	02-Jun-2017 (13 days ago)	Panadol	'
Patient-entered information	02-Jun-2017 (13 days ago)	Seafood	Hives
Event Summary by Own organisation	23-May-2017 (3 weeks ago)	Penicillin allergy	Urticaria

Latest HealthSpeak Out Now



You can read the latest HealthSpeak magazine online now at www.issuu.com/healthspeak.

This bigger than usual issue is full of interesting articles about the North Coast health community.

It includes news about the recent NCPHN Primary Health Excellence Award recipients for 2017; a feature called Chronic Disease Better Together – how you can work with other health professionals to improve the care of the chronically ill; a profile on Rekindling the Spirit CEO Greg Telford, how botox can help those with mobility difficulties and much more.

If you'd like to write or suggest an article for HealthSpeak, email editor Janet Grist at jgrist@ncphn.org.au.

Coordinating the NDIS and the health care system

Jodie Bailie is a research fellow based at the University Centre for Rural Health on the North Coast. She recently attended the Primary Health Care Research Conference in Brisbane. Jodie was surprised to find that Australia's premier forum on primary health care did not offer a single presentation on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the impact of its rollout on the health system.

Read Jodie's commentary at <http://bit.ly/2xz0p4l>.



North Coast
Allied Health Association

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11 October

Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs: A Showcase Of New Mid North Coast Services – Port Macquarie

Wednesday 11 October

The Red Conference – Port Macquarie

Wednesday 11 October - Friday 13 October

Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium – Albury

Thursday 12 October

Understanding MRI – A Musculoskeletal Perspective – Port Macquarie

Thursday 19 October

R U Appy Workshop – Coffs Harbour

Friday 20 October

Mental Health Month – Peer Worker Breakfast – Lismore

Monday 23 October - Tuesday 24 October

Domestic Violence Response Training – Bellingen

Monday 6 November - Friday 10 November

Transformers II – Special Event Series – Ballina

Wednesday 8 November

Dementia Essentials – Port Macquarie

Thursday 16 November

Mid North Coast Regional Obesity Summit – Port Macquarie

Saturday 25 November

Advanced Training in Suicide Prevention – Grafton

More Events

Visit www.ncphn.org.au/events to view the North Coast Primary Health Network Events Calendar.



NCAHA is proudly supported by
North Coast Primary Health Network

