

SIRTH has four main workstreams— recent activity includes:

Medical

Funding for the General Practice Education Programme (GPEP) has been moved to the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) for the first year of training, with part of (six months) the second and third years requiring supervision from another vocational specialist. This enables opportunities for DHBs to provide experience for these trainees within a range of hospital settings, such as emergency department, child health, aged care and chronic disease management (cardiac, respiratory).

RMO education packages across the South Island are currently being collated, with a view to standardising three of these training programmes. This will assist in better coordinating PGY 1/2 training requirements across the five South Island DHBs.

A process will be developed to provide opportunities for RMOs and trainees to experience a move across DHBs to obtain the PGY identified experiences (eg rural health, large urban).

We will soon have South Island wide medical workforce data and vocational training data, which will allow us to identify workforce and training gaps and opportunities.

Midwifery

South Island Midwifery leaders' meeting is scheduled for April as is the SI midwifery educators meeting. These meetings provide the opportunity for networking across the SI DHB's.

Nursing

A working group is to be established to develop and implement an action plan for the ageing of the nursing workforce project. The group will include representatives from each DHB and the community.

The South Island Nurse Educators are working together to identify mandatory training learning packages that can be shared across the South Island.

Ten Cancer Care Coordination Nurse positions have been approved across the South Island. Recruitment for these positions has commenced.

Allied Health, Scientific and Technical

A Project Lead for developing the South Island Regional Allied Health Assistant Programme has been appointed. Further information on the role and Project Lead Catherine Coups is in this update.

Advance Care Planning Training programme gathers pace

Advanced Care Planning, ACP, is a critical component of improving end of life care in New Zealand and we are committed to training the medical workforce to initiate and participate in conversations with patients and their families about what is important to them as they approach the end of their lives.

The South Island rollout of training for ACP has commenced in association with the National ACP Cooperative, Northern DHB Support Agency and Health Workforce New Zealand.

The ACP training is based on a 5 level competency framework (Basic and Levels 1-4). The Basic, Level 1 and Level 4 training programmes are currently in development. The first Level 2 ACP training course is being held in Christchurch in April and another Level 2 ACP training course is planned for May and will be held in Dunedin.

A further six South Island Level 2 ACP courses are planned to be held during towards the end of 2013 and early 2014. The objectives of the Level 2 ACP training course are to:

- Increase ACP knowledge, including what it is, what the benefits of ACP are and what the legal framework is
- Increase clinicians' confidence in being able to initiate and facilitate ACP discussions (communication skills)

For further information regarding ACP training please contact Gillian Pearce; Gillian.pearce@siapo.health.nz or for more information about ACP in general, go to: www.advancecareplanning.org.nz

Catherine Coups enables increased focus on Allied Health

Catherine Coups started work in the role of Project Lead for the South Island Regional Allied Health Assistant Development Programme in February.



The Allied Health Assistant Development Project is an initiative of the SIRTH Allied Health Workstream. The aim of the project is to develop a regional framework for Allied Health Assistant training, by implementing the Careerforce NZQA level 3 Health Assistant Qualification into the five South Island DHB's.

This project will support the training and development of an Allied Health Assistant workforce with more generic skills, who are able to work with other health professionals to provide services in more flexible and integrated ways across hospital, community and home.

Catherine has a clinical background as a Speech-Language Therapist, and after completing her training in the UK she has worked in clinical roles in both the UK and New Zealand. More recently she has had the opportunity to lead interdisciplinary Allied Health teams in rehab, older people's health and acute paediatric settings.

A Review of Prevocational Training Requirements for Doctors in New Zealand: Stage 2

The Medical Council of New Zealand have prepared a second consultation paper on the proposed changes to prevocational training. The Hub is coordinating a South Island response to the document.

For further information about the proposal contact kathryn.goodyear@siapo.health.nz or alternatively you can provide your feedback directly to the Council on their online form on their homepage www.mcnz.org.nz or email your submission to: prevocationalconsultation@mcnz.org.nz

The South Island Regional Training Hub is one of four national training hubs established through a Health Workforce NZ initiative. Its governance structure sits under the umbrella of the South Island Alliance with its steering group comprising representatives from all the South Island DHBs.

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In agreeing a collaborative regional direction, the South Island DHBs have committed to a *best for patients, best for system* alliance framework to negotiate a way into the future.