

*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.*

### **SIRTH has four main workstreams—recent activity includes:**

#### **Medical**

The work groups are focusing on expanding PGY 2/3 experience into the community and general practice; recruiting into rural and general practice; developing regional co-ordination for vocational training (Anatomical Pathology); standardising PGY1 orientation/learning packages across the South Island.

#### **Midwifery**

South Island DHB Midwifery leaders and educators are now meeting regularly and have agreed to share educational resources, are rolling out PROMPT (Practical Obstetric Multi Professional Training in small centres, standardising leadership and quality tools, and developing South Island wide protocols.

#### **Allied Health, Scientific and Technical**

The Allied Health Assistant (AHA) Project is developing a framework for the implementation of AHA Training and Development. Five demonstration sites have been identified across the region to roll out an initial group of AHAs completing the Rehab and Dental Strands of the Careerforce National Certificate in Health, Disability, and Aged Support (Health Assistants) (NZQA Level 3). The AHA training framework will be in addition to implementation of the training, provide recommendations for development of regional and local process or policy for orientation, clinical competency, access to supervision and ongoing professional development for AHAs.

#### **Nursing**

A Sustainable Nursing Workforce project is now underway with the group meeting recently in Christchurch. Carolyn Reed, Chief Executive of the NZ Nursing Council presented to the group on the most recent nursing workforce data and future projections for the supply of nurses.

In the South Island we know that 67.5% of the nursing workforce is aged 45 or above—this equates to 8151 nurses, with 4000 of these nurses aged 55 or over.

#### **Gerontology Acceleration Programme (GAP) Pilot**

This pilot, currently underway in Canterbury, supports the development—both professional and academic—of six motivated registered nurses already working in older people's health (four from CDHB AT&R and Medical, one from BUPA and one from Ultimate Care Group) who have the potential to be future clinical leaders, specialists or managers.

The pilot involves “job swaps” between CDHB and the two aged care facilities. Each of the six nurses will have two 12 week clinical rotations where they will step in and fill the shoes of their fellow GAP nurse while staying on the payroll and pay conditions of their home employer. Each GAP nurse is also expected to complete Otago University's postgraduate gerontology paper and advanced health assessment paper. This programme has the potential to be rolled out regionally and nationally.

### **Advance Care Planning (ACP) Training**

The first South Island ACP Champion/Practitioner Peer Support Group Meeting was held in May. The purpose of this group is to bring South Island-based L2 and L3 ACP Practitioners and identified ACP Champions together via teleconference on a bi-monthly basis to continue to support ACP Practitioners to implement ACP within their DHB's/services/organisations. The group aims to provide ongoing support for health professionals to develop the skills and expertise learned whilst on the course and provide advice regarding implementing or deploying ACP in their work place. It is envisaged that members will be able to share and update the group on their experiences of using their new skills in the work place, discuss any challenges and successes.

Expressions of interest (EOI) for the Level 3 ACP Facilitator training closed on 30 June 2013. Eight people from across New Zealand will be selected from the EOI's received and training will commence in August and continue throughout 2014.

Keep an eye out for the launch of the update National ACP Cooperative website and Basic and Level 1 ACP E-learning Programme which is scheduled for release in August 2013. [www.advancecareplanning.org.nz](http://www.advancecareplanning.org.nz)

**SIRTH is an innovative health network co-ordinating training and education for health professionals, and developing the health workforce across the South Island.**

## The SIRTH Team

The SIRTH team has undergone some changes recently with the resignations of Robyn Henderson as Chair and Nursing Representative, and Jan Barber as the South Island Alliance Programme Office (SIAPO) link. SIRTH is pleased to welcome Mary Gordon, as the new Nursing Representative and Chair, and Margaret Bunker, South Island Alliance Programme Coordinator, to provide SIAPO input.

### Mary Gordon



Mary began her nursing career on the West Coast. Following completion of her training she worked in a variety of clinical settings within Grey Hospital. She moved to Canterbury in 1985 and worked in Cardiology for a number of years. Following a year of study in 1990, Mary changed her focus and moved into population health services where she established the Health Promotion Service for

the West Coast Region. In 1995 Mary moved into her first nursing leadership position and since then she has worked in South Canterbury and Counties Manukau, South Auckland before moving back to Canterbury to take up the Executive Director of Nursing position in September 2002.

## SIRTH one-off Funding

SIRTH has provided one-off funding for the following programmes:

- Support for the SUDI (Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy) safe sleeping education programme in the South Island.
- Introduction of Agility TRx (a community nursing management tool) into Nelson Marlborough DHB community nursing. This is a Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ) innovation initiative.  
For further information see:  
[www.healthworkforce.govt.nz/new-roles-and-scopes](http://www.healthworkforce.govt.nz/new-roles-and-scopes)
- Supporting people to attend the Advance Care Planning training.

## Mental Health & Addiction Workforce Planning Lead

This new position (to be advertised shortly), funded from HWNZ through Te Pou, has been created to provide mental health and addiction regional workforce information and to develop and implement a South Island mental health and addiction workforce plan which includes education and training. It is one of four positions that are being implemented nationally.

This role will sit within SIRTH, and the South Island Mental Health Service Level Alliance (MHSLA) will have oversight of the role.

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## Voluntary Bonding

SIRTH has recently coordinated a South Island response to the HWNZ review of Voluntary Bonding. This was an opportunity to provide feedback in relation to hard to staff specialities and locations throughout the South Island.

For further information see:

<http://healthworkforce.govt.nz/our-work/voluntary-bonding-scheme>

**The South Island Regional Training Hub is one of four national training hubs established through a Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ) 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.**

For more information contact:

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