

SIRTH has four main workstreams— recent activity includes:

Allied Health Assistant Development Project gaining momentum

During March, 21 Canterbury DHB Allied Health Assistants (AHAs) began their journey of study towards the National Certificate in Health, Disability, and Aged Support.

They will be undertaking the Rehabilitation Strand of the qualification and are the largest group of trainees from one South Island DHB to commence the training to date.

They are joined by two new AHAs, who have recently joined the therapy team at WCDHB. They join the initial group of 25 AHAs from across the five regional DHBs who commenced their training in October.



This framework will also guide the development of regional and local orientation processes, clinical competencies, access to support and supervision and ongoing professional development for AHAs.

Catherine says workplace training is really appropriate

for the AHA workforce as the practical approach means it's easy to relate the training to the everyday clinical

working environment.

The Regional Allied Health Assistant Development Project is an initiative of the SIRTH Allied Health Work stream. Project Lead Catherine Coups says, "Our goal is to put in place a consistent way of implementing AHA training across the 5 DHBs".

"We are looking to produce the best person in the right place at the right time; with highly skilled people doing their jobs supported by AHAs who have the appropriate skills".

Taking stock: for Mental health and addiction

Te Pou and Matua Raki, with the support of Te Rau Matatini, Le Va and the Werry Centre, are reviewing future needs for adult mental health and addiction services.

More than numbers: the 2014 workforce stocktake seeks to develop a workforce planning and forecasting framework to contribute and strengthen existing workforce development and planning for the mental health and addiction sector.

Valerie Williams, SIRTH Planning Lead for South Island Mental Health and Addiction Workforce said workforce planning in New Zealand was currently limited by a lack of consistent national data with repeat measures over time.

"We need to identify current and future needs of the mental health and addiction workforce," she said.

"The stocktake will comprise of two phases, including **phase one**, a workforce survey of organisations and **phase two:** an online individual workforce census late 2014."

She said that changing models of care, increased technology costs, increased fiscal restraint, and an emphasis on evidence-based planning required nations, including New Zealand, to get more effective use of the health workforce.

SIRTH welcomes new team member

The steering group has welcomed Bernhard Kuepper from South Canterbury DHB.

Bernhard moved to New Zealand four years ago to become medical director of Medicine, ATR and Emergency Department at Timaru Hospital. He is also an honorary senior lecturer of Otago University.



Bernhard has trained as a general medical specialist with subspecialty in cardiology and rescue and retrieval medicine. Over the last 20 years he has been a German Red Cross volunteer, later becoming a Director of the Medical School and Chief Medical Officer of the German Red Cross in Düsseldorf. Bernhard taught training in pre-hospital rescue and retrieval in Lower Saxony.

PDRP Te Kāhui Kōkiri Mātanga coming soon

The Professional Development & Recognition Programmes (PDRP) has been endorsed by the five South Island DHBs, bringing all clinical nursing staff under one professional development system that supports a workforce that can work across boundaries, roles and location.

Te Kāhui Kōkiri Mātanga (Advancing the Skill and Knowledge of Nurses) Regional PDRP will now be a South Island wide programme working with a number of partner organisations across the DHB and industry, as well as a national programme for Department of Corrections.

Southland-based Deb Ashworth, a leader of the PDRP SIRTH workgroup said the collaboration of DHBs standardised professional development across the region was to the benefit of nursing staff.

“We have been working with the Canterbury Region to align portfolio submission processes, interim year processes, assessor nomination levels of practice and wording around line manager support.”

For more info contact [Deborah Ashworth](#) or [Becky Hickmott](#).

Sustainable Nursing statement endorsed

The South Island Executive Directors of Nursing has endorsed the Sustainable Nursing Work group's Position Statement on Sustaining the South Island Nursing Workforce. In the South Island we know that 67.5% of the nursing workforce is aged 45 or above – this equates to 8151 nurses. The Position Statement is one of a number of strategies being developed to both grow and retain our current nursing workforce.

Read the full position statement [here](#).

To find out more about SIRTH and access useful resources including links to post graduate training opportunities and e-learning information, visit our [website](#). Or For more information contact:

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