Update from ALT/SPAiT meeting by Jan Barber, General Manager, South Island Alliance.

The Alliance Leadership Team (ALT) held a joint meeting with the Strategic Planning and Integration Team (SPaIT) in early July and the conversation was incredibly positive.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin planning for the 16/17 year and it provided a great opportunity to review the progress of the Alliance and its SLAs and workstreams over the four years since the Alliance’s inception.

We agreed that the South Island Alliance should look at the overall health care needs for the region and prioritise specific areas of work for SIAPO support. Other areas of work will be identified as suitable for the transition to become part of as business as usual for the DHBs, noting that a transition plan for integration back into DHBs may be required to support the ongoing regional approach.

The group also discussed and agreed the importance of building the evidential view of where the work currently being undertaken by the SLAs is adding value. SPaIT will focus on developing system-level outcome measures which will provide a framework for assessing the added value of SLA and workstream activities. It’s also important that we focus on the health needs of South Islanders when setting priorities, as well as fulfilling MoH requirements for regional service planning.

We will host a workshop with SLA and workstream facilitators in October where we will discuss these matters further. In the meantime, I would like to thank the South Island Alliance Service Level Alliance and workstream members and the SIAPO staff for their ongoing commitment and dedication.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or comments.

Congratulations to our Allied Health Graduates

Canterbury and Southern DHBs are both celebrating the graduation of allied health assistants from the National Certificate in Health, Disability and Aged Support (Health Assistants) Rehabilitation Assistance Level 3 programme.

In June, Canterbury DHB marked the graduation of eighteen allied health assistants from Burwood Hospital, Christchurch Hospital and The Princess Margaret Hospital (TPMH). This was followed quickly by another ceremony at Southern DHB where seven allied health assistants graduated.

During the celebration at Southern, one of the assistants, Gail Milmine presented assessor Lynn McLachlan with flowers in appreciation of her role in supporting assistants, while thanking managers, verifiers and the DHB for their support for assistants to complete the course. Gail said: “For myself, the course had made me re-think some of the things I have previously done in my working day and improve the way I will carry out tasks”.

Andrew Metcalfe, Allied Health Director for Older People, Clinical Support and Community Directorate, Southern DHB, said, “This has been a significant experience for allied health assistants, some of whom have not participated in a more formal learning environment like this before.”

To read the rest of the article click here.
Meet the team: Margaret Bunker, South Island Alliance Programme Coordinator

1. What’s your role with SIAPO?
I am the South Island Alliance Programme Coordinator with responsibility to lead the Service Level Alliance Facilitators to achieve their key objectives; and to ensure the SLA Facilitators support the Service Level Alliance teams and Workstreams to effectively deliver the agreed workplans, which are published annually in the SI Health Service Plan. I also provide input and support to ensure alignment and integration across the SLAs and Workstreams with South Island strategic planning and development.

2. How long have you been at SIAPO?
I joined the South Island Alliance in March 2012 as the SIA Programme Coordinator, not long after the SIA was formed.

3. Where did you work prior to this role?
I worked in Planning and Funding CDHB as the Secondary Care Portfolio Manager. Prior to that I lived in Australia and my career involved both clinical and nursing executive management mainly at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children Sydney (The Children’s Hospital at Westmead).

I also worked at the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards a national organisation which offers accreditation services, standards development, clinical indicators, consultancy, customised reporting and education services.

I am a registered nurse and did my general nursing training at Christchurch Hospital; midwifery at Christchurch Women’s Hospital; and paediatric nursing certificate at the Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne. I have a Masters in Management from the University of Technology Sydney.

4. What do you enjoy most about your role?
Being able to take a whole of South Island approach to strategic planning and considering the best options for providing a programme of work.

Working with the Facilitators. They form a strategic partnership with the Chairs of the Service Level Alliances and Workstreams, and along with the Chairs they are very focussed in their work and looking to deliver the best outcomes. It is very important I support them and always consider how we can do things better. When possible, I enjoy the opportunity to meet members of the Service Level Alliances and Workstreams.

5. What are some of the challenges?
That we are able to deliver the SLA and Workstream annual workplans within the resources we have. Also, knowing that there are other areas of work that would benefit from a South Island approach.

6. What’s your proudest accomplishment?
The establishment of the SI Bariatric Service, being part of the initial planning stages through to the implementation of the South Island Bariatric Service which enables those with the highest need to access treatment on an equitable basis across the South Island. The project involved people working in various health disciplines.

7. What do you like to do outside of work?
My family and friends are important I like to be in contact with them. Time out in my garden – it’s never finished; walking and trying to keep fit.
NEWS IN BRIEF

HOPSLA in the news

Nelson gerontology nurse and author of the HOPSLA interRAI reports, Gabrielle Stent, talks to Editor Fiona Cassie about the benefits offered by the interRAI assessment tool in the latest issue of NZ Nursing Review. Click here to read more or visit www.NZNursingreview.co.nz

SIA Health Services Plan report released

The annual report against the 2014-15 South Island Regional Health Services plan has been compiled and published. Click here to visit the South Island Alliance website’s useful resources page. Scroll down to click on the report.

SCN project manager embarks on new journey

Ursula Jewell, Project Manager, South Island Clinical Cancer Information System, is taking a leave of absence from SCN for a year to work at Scott Base. Here’s what she has to say about the opportunity:

“After five years with the SCN, and with the SCN now in Di Riley’s [Manager of the Southern Cancer Network] safe hands, I think the timing is right for me to take a leave of absence and immerse myself in my love for science and the environment for a while.

“I will be stationed in Antarctica for a year, working for Antarctica NZ at Scott Base, providing science and IT support while there. I feel very privileged to have been offered this opportunity by Antarctica NZ and am grateful to the SCN and SIAPO to make it possible for me to take this leave of absence. I leave the SCN at the end of September 2015 and I will return mid October 2016.”

Palliative Care Workstream Sector Engagement Forum kicks off August 20.

The South Island Alliance Palliative Care Workstream invites stakeholders, service providers and members of the SI PC Forum (now disestablished) to get an update on what the workstream is doing. The forum will also provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share their thoughts.

Late registrations welcome!

Contact Jane Haughey, Workstream Facilitator.

APAC Forum coming up!

APAC brings together the best minds in healthcare, improvement and innovation. Held at Auckland Sky City Convention Centre from the 23rd to the 25th of September, attendees can expect to gain professional knowledge, new developments, network opportunities, and to “gain direction, inspiration and advice”.

More than 130 high-profile local and international speakers will be presenting across 42 workshops, plus there are optional extra full day ‘intensive’ sessions.

For details, or to book, go to: www.apacforum.com

Southern Cancer Network manager, Di Riley, and clinical director, Shaun Costello, have recently returned from the UK National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) Cancer Outcomes Conference in Belfast.

The conference aims to support clinicians, managers and researchers to bring data and intelligence together to support service development.

“The goal is to discuss how we can use data to inform change and improve health outcomes,” says Di. “For example, if we want to know whether patients receive appropriate care for their condition or are delivering services in accordance with national standards, then we have to look at what data needs to be captured, preferably as part of routine care. Then we need to look at how to analyse that data and how we share it with clinicians and service managers so they can actually use it.”

Di says one of the key learnings for her from the conference relates to how we in New Zealand can use Faster Cancer Treatment data to understand how patients are accessing health care.

To hear more about what she took out of the conference and how she contributed, click here.
New Cognitive Impairment Pathway for Southern Providers

A new Cognitive Impairment Health Pathway has been launched for the Southern district giving all primary care teams in the area access to a pathway that will support the delivery of more timely diagnosis, intervention and a consistent referrals process for people suffering with cognitive impairment and dementia.

The new health pathway was developed with the support of Primary and Specialist Care providers in the Southern DHB. This means that all of the South Island now has a live pathway available in each district, consistent with the aims of the South Island Alliance’s Health of Older People’s Group (HOPSLA).

The pathway will mainly support those health professionals working in Primary Care settings in the Southern district by providing information on the process for diagnosing cognitive impairment and dementia, as well as giving them the best options for where to refer their patients to, including links to Alzheimer’s Societies, needs assessment and secondary services.

The New Zealand Framework for Dementia Care (published in 2013) recognises the importance of timely diagnosis of dementia, as it allows a person living with dementia and their whanau, family or friends to make decisions about the care they receive for as long as possible.

The new pathway supports the work of the Primary Care Dementia Education Project, explains Carole Kerr, South Island Dementia Education Co-ordinator and member of HOPSLA, “The pathway is an important component of the work we are doing across the South Island to improve dementia diagnosis and care. It is a real step forward in that it will directly support those with cognitive impairment in the Southern district to receive timely intervention and a consistent process for referring on to secondary and tertiary services.”

This latest pathway means that now all South Island DHB staff and primary care staff have access to a district-specific pathway. Carole and HOPSLA members wish to extend their congratulations to all those staff involved in implementing the new pathway.

Safety1st System Gets South Island-wide Upgrade

Safety1st, the South Island’s integrated e-risk management system is now in operation across all South Island DHBs and a new release (version 6.5.5.3) is being rolled out across the region from Monday 10th August. The upgraded version promises to deliver some important enhanced functionality including:

- The ability to task multiple people when utilising the Add/Modify Task option (instead of one individual per task).
- When a Task is received via email, the link now opens to the actual task assigned rather than opening at the file level.
- The new version has additional features that will be rolled out over the next few months in a staged manner including a risk register module and dashboard reporting capability (these will be static reports only at this stage).
- The upgrade project is being coordinated by members of the South Island Alliance’s Quality and Safety group, whose members represent each of the five South Island DHBs and together through the regional Safety1st Control Group are planning a system health check starting in late August and will be inviting input from stakeholders in a variety of different forums.

New Partnership for Stroke Education Day

South Island-based health professionals, providers and teams who work with stroke patients are invited to attend a stroke education day this November, marking the first time that the South Island Alliance’s Stroke Services workstream has partnered with the Stroke Foundation’s of New Zealand’s South Island office to deliver this annual training day.

The day will provide eight hours of stroke specific education for health professionals working across the broad spectrum of stroke health care. Chair of the Stroke Services workstream of the South Island Alliance John Fink said that the day will be valuable for those working across the stroke care spectrum: “We have worked hard to ensure the day provides maximum learning outcomes for professionals to help providers achieve best practice delivery of care.”

To read the rest of this article click here.

The event is being held on Thursday, 26 November 2015 in Christchurch. For more information click here or email Stroke Foundation of New Zealand southern@stroke.org.nz.