STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP FOR

SPGPPS

PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

News

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Introduction

For the third edition of our Newsletter, we thought it would be useful to provide more detailed information on, the recent changes to the SPGPPS; the outcome of the inaugural SPGPPS National Forum and Draft Strategic Plan; and an update on the SPGPPS Data Collection and Analysis Project.

As part of the changes to the representation on the SPGPPS, Professor George Lipton has stepped down from the Chair of the larger SPGPPS group. We would like to thank him for his leadership and able Chairing of such a large group.

Dr Jonathan Phillips, now President of the RANZCP, steps down as Chair of the Steering Committee. Jonathan's enormous energy and dynamic motivational personality has been a vital ingredient for success in the early stages of development of the SPGPPS process.

The Steering Committee has been an active powerhouse for the overall group under his leadership.

Welcome to Dr Yvonne White as she steps into that position.

Dr Bernd Lorenzen has been appointed to the SPGPPS as the representative for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). GPs are a major stakeholder group in the provision of private sector psychiatric services and care. Welcome to Dr Lorenzen.

The SPGPPS could not function so effectively were it not for Mr Phillip Taylor. His recent massive effort in organising our successful National Forum meeting, and the documentation for that, is a case in point. Calmly he organises busy people in such a diplomatic way. Meetings tend to run smoothly and efficiently because of Phillip's extensive preparation. Thank you once again Phillip!

Dr Bill Pring
Editor

Changes to Representation on the SPGPPS

Mr Phillip Taylor

Over the past four years, structural changes have been made to the SPGPPS to better facilitate the consultative process. The need for further reform became evident toward the end of 1998 when the number of bodies lobbying to join the SPGPPS increased.

To facilitate greater participation for all private sector stakeholders the previously constituted wider SPGPPS will now take the form of a participatory *National Forum*.

The Forum will provide wide representation for all stakeholders involved in the provision of psychiatric services and care in the private sector. The Forum will be convened by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and chaired by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP).

The previously constituted SPGPPS Steering Committee will now be known as the *SPGPPS* and will undertake the task of progressing those issues determined as relevant by the National Forum. The SPGPPS will continue to be convened by the AMA and chaired by the RANZCP.

Recent changes to Office Bearers of the RANZCP have meant that the following representational changes have taken effect on the SPGPPS.

AMA
Dr Bill Pring (Replaces Dr Yvonne White)
Dr Eileen Burkett (Replaces Dr Bill Pring)

RANZCP
Dr Yvonne White (replaces Dr Jonathan Phillips)
Dr Don Grant (replaces Assoc. Prof. Fiona Judd)
Dr Robert Broadbent

RACGP
Dr Bernd Lorenzen

Commonwealth Dept. of Health & Aged Care

Mr Dermot Casey
TBA (replaces Mr. Ian Thompson)

Network of Australian Community Advisory Groups
Ms Janne McMahon

Private Hospitals
Mrs Val Grandison
Dr Dennis Tannenbaum

Private Insurers
Mr Bruce Houghton
Mrs Judy Hardy

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1999 National Forum and SPGPPS Strategic Plan

Dr Jonathan Phillips
Dr Yvonne White

On 8 July 1999, the SPGPPS convened its inaugural National Forum in Sydney. The theme of the Forum was *Strengthening the Focus on Private Psychiatric Services*.

Over 80 Delegates attended to assists in the further development of the *SPGPPS Draft Strategic Plan.*

The key issues that emerged from the Forum included the need to:

- improve the private/public sector interface whereby the private and public sector work together to ensure seamless continuity of care across sectors which is to the benefit of those people seeking and receiving treatment;
- lobby for legislative reforms that will facilitate portability of funds to enable people with mental health problems or mental health disorders to receive treatment and care in the most appropriate setting for their needs;
- include the general practitioner in the reform process as the contact and provider of follow-up treatment and care for people with a mental health illness and their families;
- involve and fund consumer and carer participation at every level in the planning, delivery, evaluation and funding of mental health services across both the public and private sectors;
- work more closely and constructively to improve attitudes and reduce stigma, particularly involving private practitioners in community education and awareness;
- provide appropriate education for the community, providers and funders on a collaborative and continuous basis;
- keep in mind the issue of co-morbidity and how it affects patient management and families;
- encourage shared care arrangements with general practitioners;
- establish a private sector consumer group;
- ensure that rural and remote services are included in the private sector approach toward the delivery of mental health services;
- work toward establishing consistency in relation to information management for the private sector generally, rather than focus only on outcome measures;
- build on the case load pilot study of office-based psychiatry, conducted by the RANZCP; and
- broadly address the issue of prevention and intervention and encourage the RACGP and the RANZCP to work together with consumers and carers to develop preventative programs.

The Strategic Plan has been revised and circulated widely for comment. The September meeting of the SPGPPS will consider comments received.

It is the ambition of the SPGPPS to produce a final Strategic Plan that is acceptable as a useful "road map" to guide reform in the delivery of mental health services in the private sector.

It will be the responsibility of all constituent groups involved to develop and implement their own strategies to address the issues involved.

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SPGPPS Data Collection and Analysis Project
Second Briefing

Dr Bill Pring
Mr. Allen Morris-Yates

The SPGPPS will host a Second Briefing for private sector stakeholders on the *Data Collection and Analysis Project* on Thursday, 9 September 1999 at the Sydney Airport Sheraton Hotel.

The Second Briefing will update stakeholders on progress with Stage 1 of the Project. This Project is being conducted under the auspice of the SPGPPS and is jointly sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, private health insurance funds and private hospitals.

The objective of the Project is to develop a national model for the collection and analysis of a minimum data set with outcome measures for private psychiatric services.

The aim is to put in place systems for the routine collection of data that will enable the relative effectiveness of various models of service delivery in the provision of mental health care services in private hospitals to be determined. The Project also aims to simplify overall hospital data collection requirements.

The Project is being undertaken in three stages.

Stage 1 *Preparation of a Discussion Paper that includes:*

- a review of existing practices;
- specification of requirements; and
- specification and costing of technical options with an indication of the preferred model.

All stakeholders will then make a decision on the option considered to best meet their needs.

Stage 2 *Development and pilot testing of the selected model.*

Stage 3 *Routine implementation by all hospital-based private psychiatric service providers.*

Progression from Stage 1 to Stage 2 will only occur on the basis of a firm commitment from stakeholders to proceed to full implementation. The principal purpose of the preparation of a Discussion Paper in Stage 1 is to provide an informed basis for such a commitment.

Progression to Stage 3 of the Project will only occur after stakeholders have had an opportunity to consider the findings from Stage 2. Should the feasibility and benefits of the selected model be proven in Stage 2, then the data collection and reporting system may be extended to all hospital-based private psychiatric services.

The Working Group overseeing the Project has had several meetings. Discussions have revolved around communication strategies, existing data collection and reporting requirements, stakeholder access to data, and the selection of an appropriate self-report measure for use in the private sector. The current data collection requirements, data analysis and reporting procedures of State and Commonwealth Health Departments and Institutional Mental Health Care have also been identified and documented.

Most of the Project Teams' work has been focussed on the development of the model and its associated guidelines. At present, the Project Officer, Ms Siggi Zapart, is surveying all Australian private hospitals with psychiatric beds by telephone to discuss the project.

The final Discussion Paper will detail the:

- proposed national model, including a specification of the suggested Data Set and the associated guidelines for its collection, and
- guidelines for the analysis and reporting the Data Set to Hospitals and Service Providers.

The Discussion Paper together with the guidelines for training clinicians in the use of HoNOS and the recommended self-report questions will be made available at the Second Briefing.

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How to Contact Participant Groups

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- *Appointment of second Commonwealth representative pending*

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SPGPPS News provides a brief summary of issues being progressed under the auspice of the SPGPPS process. Copies of full draft reports on the most recent meetings of the SPGPPS and the Draft SPGPPS Strategic Plan can be viewed on the internet at:

http://domino.ama.com.au/DIR0103/MentalH.nsf/Mental+Health