Welcome to the 2nd communiqué for the Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative

Welcome to the 2nd communiqué for the Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative. The communiqué is a key component of the National Communication and Collaboration Strategy for the Initiative. It aims to streamline communication and will continue to be circulated on a bi-monthly basis throughout the duration of the Initiative.

An overview of the state and territory gynaecological cancers workforce projects

As part of the Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative, the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers is partnering with the jurisdictions to establish five gynaecological cancers workforce projects, in Victoria and Tasmania; NSW and ACT; Queensland; SA and NT; and WA.

Brief synopses of two jurisdictional projects (SA and NT, and WA) were included in the previous communiqué. The current communiqué includes a brief synopsis of the NSW and ACT project (see Attachment 1). Synopses of the final two jurisdictional projects (Victoria and Tasmania, and Queensland) will be included in the next communiqué.

Actions: Become familiar with the design and intent of each of the jurisdictional projects in order to identify any synergies with your state and territory gynaecological cancers workforce, and potential areas for collaboration.

The National Gynaecological Cancers Service Delivery and Resource Framework

The development of the National Gynaecological Cancers Service Delivery and Resource Framework is underway!

The external consultants leading this component of the Initiative (Sheila Hirst Consulting in partnership with Alison Amos of ECHO - Extending the Capacity of HealthCare Organisations) have started conducting consultations with key stakeholders to inform the design and focus of the Framework. They have also developed a service mapping tool to collect data from all the major specialist gynaecological oncology services and any identified regional centres that have a significant...
The Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative is a National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers initiative, funded by the Australian Government

gynaecological cancer services supported by a gynaecologic oncologist.

The completion of the service mapping tool will be coordinated through the project teams for each of the five gynaecological cancers workforce projects, in collaboration with key local service providers. The data collected will provide the external consultants with a more detailed understanding of current demand, variability of current resources, key practices and how services respond to the needs of specific groups of women. It is also likely to provide useful information for the evolving state and territory projects.

**Actions:** If you would like to participate in the consultation process to inform the development of the Framework, please contact Sheila Hirst (email: sheilahirst@iinet.net.au)

**REMEMBER:** Some of the key principles underpinning the National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative focus on reducing duplication and promoting a national approach to service delivery for gynaecological cancers

**National teleconferences**

Bi-monthly national teleconferences are another key component of the National Communication and Collaboration Strategy, specifically for bringing internal stakeholders together (ie project officers, clinical leaders and policy officers associated with each of the gynaecological cancers workforce projects).

The 2nd national teleconference was convened on Thursday 29th October, 2009 (from 12.30 - 1.30 pm AEDST). This teleconference focused on the development of the National Gynaecological Cancers Service Delivery and Resource Framework. The draft minutes from the teleconference have since been circulated to state and territory gynaecological cancers workforce projects.

The 3rd national teleconference has been scheduled for Thursday 3rd December, from 1.30 - 2.30 pm AEDST. This teleconference will focus on the development of the national evaluation framework for the initiative. Dr Mel Miller and Dr Crissa Sumner, from the National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Support Service (provided by Siggins Miller), will discuss the draft program logic model and potential key performance indicators (KPIs) to underpin the national evaluation framework.

**Jeannie Ferris, National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers Consumer Churchill Fellowship**

All those working with women and their families who have been affected by gynaecological cancers are encouraged to promote the 2010 Jeannie Ferris, National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers Consumer Churchill Fellowship. This Fellowship will be administered by The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and is to be awarded to a consumer (a woman who has been affected by a gynaecological cancer, a family member or carer).

A call for applications opened on The Churchill Trust’s website: www.churchilltrust.com.au on November 1 2009 and closes 26 February 2010. The successful applicant will be expected to undertake a project that will benefit women affected by gynaecological cancers and assist in reducing the impact of gynaecological cancers on those affected.

To download a flyer please visit Quick Links at: http://www.gynaecancercentre.gov.au

**Professional development resources for gynaecological cancers**

One of the aims of the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers (NCGC) is to increase awareness and education about gynaecological cancers for medical and allied health professionals to improve the diagnosis, treatment and care of women affected by these cancers.
The Centre has conducted a comprehensive review of national and international resources to identify best practice resources already available and highlight gaps in information. They will shortly release a suite of information resources to ensure that there is comprehensive information available on all gynaecological cancers.

Supporting the primary workforces

In 2008, Cancer Australia partnered with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to develop the on-line learning module Managing gynaecological malignancies in general practice. Based upon four hypothetical gynaecological cancer case studies, this activity focuses on the management of women with cervical, ovarian, endometrial and vulval cancers, from initial presentation to their GP through to palliative care, as part of a multidisciplinary team approach.

This learning module is suitable for general practitioners and practice nurses and has just been re-released to form part of the larger active learning module Female cancers and psychosocial care (designed to improve primary care management for women diagnosed with a malignancy). Completion of this activity is approved for 40 Category 1 points in the RACGP QA&CPD Program and has been approved for Women’s Health points.

The learning tool is available on the RACGP’s online education portal, gplearning, at www.gplearning.com.au

Interactive training module to address the psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers

The National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers is also working to raise awareness of the psychosexual health needs of women diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer. They have commissioned the services of Professor Patsy Yates and her team, from the Queensland University of Technology, to develop, pilot test and evaluate an evidence-based interactive, web based, training module and supporting resources to address the psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers and their partners. The resources will be a valuable tool for the treatment of women with all gynaecological cancers, but will focus on endometrial, ovarian, cervical and vulval cancers.

For further information and regular updates about this project’s progress, please visit the following website:

http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/nrs/research/associated_centres_and_programs/gyn/

Actions: Consider how you may be able to use these resources to support the gynaecological cancers workforce in your state or territory. Providing stakeholders with access to professional development opportunities is very important in terms of supporting ongoing service improvements.

Other tools and resources

The National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Support Service is still keen to get some advice about tools and resources that you and your stakeholders would find useful to support your local projects. It is part of our role to source/develop a range of supporting tools and resources to assist you over the duration of your project.

The National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers’ website will function as a central hub for these tools and resources. As each tool or resource is sourced or developed, it will be uploaded onto the website so that you can access it at your leisure.

Actions: Let the National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Support Service know what tools and resources you require to support the outcomes of your local Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Project.

NCGC newsletter

The NCGC circulates a regular electronic newsletter. The December edition of the newsletter will be circulated shortly.
The Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative is a National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers initiative, funded by the Australian Government

The Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative is a National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers initiative, funded by the Australian Government

The newsletter provides an update on the Centre’s activities and is a valuable resource for finding out what is new. It is also available on the NCGC’s website: www.gynaecancercentre.gov.au

This communiqué was prepared by the National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Support Service.

REMEMBER:
The National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Support Service has been established to provide support to jurisdictional project teams throughout all phases of the Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative. If you require any support, please don’t hesitate to contact Gerry Cleary from the National Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Support Service (email: gerry.cleary@sigginsmiller.com.au)
Synopsis of the NSW and ACT gynaecological cancers workforce project

Below is a brief synopsis of the key activities and strategies associated with the NSW and ACT gynaecological cancers workforce project. Synopses of the SA and NT, and WA projects were included in the 1st communiqué. Synopses of the other two jurisdictional projects (Victoria and Tasmania, and Queensland) will be included in the next communiqué. This can be found on www.gynaecancercentre.gov.au

**NSW & ACT**

The NSW & ACT gynaecological cancers workforce project aims to improve the coordination of care and provision of best practice care for women with gynaecological cancers. The project is funded through an agreement between Cancer Australia’s National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers and the Cancer Institute NSW. A Project Steering Committee, that includes representatives from all key clinical specialties and participating jurisdictions, will serve as the governing body for the initiative and will be supported by a Project Working Group. The Project Working Group will comprise Project Officers and Program Managers. One Project Officer and Program Manager will be appointed through the Cancer Institute NSW and their counterparts through ACT Health.

The NSW & ACT gynaecological cancers workforce project focuses on six key streams, as outlined below:

- Promoting awareness and uptake of existing resources (including clinical guidelines, patient information, available continuing professional development resources)
- Contributing to dissemination plans and evaluation of new and developing resources
- Improving communication between specialised treatment centres and rural/primary care in order to facilitate increased continuity of care and improved outcomes for women with gynaecological cancers
- Providing increased opportunities for rural/regional staff to access education (especially education and training in relation to psychosocial, psychosexual and survivorship issues)
- Providing enhanced opportunities for health professionals and consumers to access information by synthesising existing information
- Further developing existing referral pathways and instigating clinical rotations and/or placements to improve access to medical and supportive care, regardless of location

The NSW & ACT project will also contribute to developing, implementing and evaluating the *National Gynaecological Cancers Service Delivery and Resource Framework*. 