



Seniors Collaborative Action Project

Barossa.Gawler.Light.Mallala

**Dementia Link Worker Task Force
Thursday 22nd May 2014 @ 9:30am
The Barossa Council (Interview Room)**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Debra Anderson (SCAP), Denise Maule (Gawler HACC), Gaby Lengyel (Country Home Services), Kerrie-Anne Vladcoff (Gawler Health Service GEM team).

APOLOGIES : Fiona Hill (NAML), Tracy Maynard (CNSAML)

1. OPEN

Meeting opened 9:40am.

2. BACKGROUND

The need for a Dementia Link Worker in the region, particularly for Gawler, has been raised at the Northern Dementia Action group and the SCAP Home Support & Home Care Packages Working Group. The latter group agreed to form a DLW Task Force to start developing a case to be ready for funding opportunities.

DLW's are funded by HACC and almost all are employed by Alzheimer's Australia, except the Murray Mallee which is employed by Country Health. The Murray Mallee went through a process of developing a case and DCSI (pre- Commonwealth HACC) put it out to tender.

A DLW provides a link between GPs and service providers and support for people with dementia, their families and carers. The Murray Mallee DLW also has a role in delivering Dementia Education.

3. ROLE OF THIS TASK FORCE

To develop a case for a Dementia Link Worker in the region. Currently there is a perceived need fuelled by anecdotal evidence. We need to pull all of this together along with statistical data into a report that can be used to apply for funding for a DLW.

4. CHAIRPERSON

Kerrie-Anne volunteered to take on this role. Deb will provide secretarial support.

5. WHO ELSE NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Carers' Link will be invited to the next meeting as they provide carer support and respite for carers of people with dementia in the Barossa area.
- Northern Adelaide Medicare Local (NAML) and Country North SA Medicare Local (CNSAML) are interested in the proposal and will potentially play a role in engaging with GPS

6. THE CURRENT SITUATION

- Alzheimer Australia stats show there were 1,046 people living with dementia in the region (Barossa, Gawler, Light, Mallala council areas) in January 2014 and 3,929 people impacted by dementia.
- GEM team has a Memory Loss Club for people with low level dementia. Nothing available since Smithy's moved out for people with higher level dementia
- GEM team currently have to refer clients to AA in Adelaide after diagnosis for support and counselling.
- When a HACC client is diagnosed with dementia they are referred for an ACAT to determine if they are eligible for packaged care.
- Only two Geriatrician Specialists in the region: private Dr Rodwell and public Dr Basham (who services the GEM team)
- Medication: geriatricians are the only ones who can prescribe the medication needed for early stages of dementia
- NOTE Kerrie-Anne provided the following information for clarification after the meeting

“For a PBS subsidies cholinesterase inhibitor to be prescribed by a GP...the diagnosis of Alzheimers disease must be confirmed by, or in consultation with, a medical specialist. Specialists such as a geriatrician, neurologist , psychiatrist and other consultant physician.

However, a GP can still prescribe the cholinesterase inhibitor, but the patient would not be eligible for the subsidy, and therefore would pay full payment on the medication (very expensive).”

7. ACTION PLAN

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Gather and document all anecdotal data regarding dementia, eg client s stories, and care worker experiences and observations	All	ongoing
Talk to GP's at Kapunda Medical Centre and Hyde & Partners about their perceptions of the need for a DLW in the region.	Kerrie-Anne	Before next meeting
Discuss future funding opportunities for DLW with Alzheimers Australia	Deb	Before next meeting
Invite Carers'Link to join the Task Force	Deb	Before next meeting
Develop a Dementia Action Forum in the region	Task Force	Longer term

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday 23rd June, 2014 at 10:00am at Barossa Council