

Officer /Director of Nursing Report

Once again the new financial year is upon us, and the reflections and challenges of 2003/2004 begin.

GENERATIONAL HEALTH REVIEW

With the Generational Health Review well under way, has brought with it many challenges and eminent changes that will impact regionally and locally on the health service and the way services are to be delivered into the future.

From an organisational and operational perspective, the Tailem Bend District Hospital Board and Staff has been involved in a number of change management workshops and various forums. This will prepare our board, staff and managers for the changes, as a result of the out working of the Generational Health Review. The health reforms that are under way in SA as a result of the recommendations made by this review include a major review of the Governance arrangements for health services. The emphasis for country SA is on improved accountability and transparency for decision making. This has been affirmed by the Minister for the existing Country Regional Board and incorporated Health Unit structures.

As a result of this, an opportunity arose within the Hills Mallee Southern Region to strengthen the focus on improved governance and population planning by the development of area manager positions. These positions Facing these eminent changes, the management of the Tailem Bend District Hospital and Meningie Health Service has undertaken regular discussions in a bid to cater for the future growth around the opportunity of sharing resources.

As a result of this, a sub-committee has been formed. This committee will work towards creating new ideas for resource sharing. This venture was decided on because Tailem Bend District Hospital already had a strong working relationship with Meningie Health Service and in close proximity as well as the Mallee Health Service had already been formed and combined a "regional health service".

Sharing resources for example, will help to ensure the recruitment and retention of staff, making positions far more sustainable across the two sites. This is an exciting time and will be a challenge to be involved in how this all unfolds with further planning.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

These are the most valuable asset of any organisation. I am always amazed at their capacity to deliver a high standard of care and organizational commitment under considerable pressure and an ever changing health environment. Please accept my sincere thanks to all of you for a job well done.

Once again I would like to personally thank a number of people for their continued support and contribution to this wonderful organisation.

My Executive Team:

- **Suzanne Nagel:** Clinical Nurse Consultant
- **Brian Peters:** Finance Officer
- **Pam Green:** Outreach Coordinator
- **Helen Read:** Hotel Services Supervisor
- **Tony Capes:** Maintenance Officer
- **Jill Miegel:** Leisure and Lifestyle Co-ordinator

In December 2003 a Team Building exercise was undertaken involving the Employees Assistance Program by all the heads of departments along with some key staff members. This proved to be very successful both personally and professionally for them. As a result of this, another similar exercise was undertaken in June 2004 as part of a planning day looking at a number of organisational key areas with heads of departments along with the staff development co-ordinator, acting regional general manager and regional aged care quality co-ordinator. Action Plans were developed from this to assist us in next financial year. It was most encouraging to see this team working in this way. Excellent!

The Nursing Division lead by Suzanne Nagel continues as always to contribute significantly to the organisation. Despite the various challenges put before them each day, this team still provides a very high standard of care.

Hotel Services lead by Helen Read and the Maintenance Department lead by Tony Capes are also a very pivotal part of our organisation. I would like to thank each and every one of their team, for being patient and flexible as well as being self regulating when the need arises.

The Friends of the Hospital once again have excelled themselves, by their wonderful presence and ability to take on significant projects that contribute to the wellbeing of our health service. One significant project has been the painting of the acute area of the facility along with soft furnishings to the patient area windows, a number of plants and wall prints. It has certainly made a big difference in freshening up our surroundings. Well done and thank you to each and every member of the committee.

OUTREACH SERVICES

This service continues to provide an invaluable role in our community along with a number of Primary Health Care initiatives around mental health. These projects have proved to be most successful in the community e.g. Small Wheeled Vehicles Project and Positive Parenting Project. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Pam Green and her team and the significant impact you have in our community and organizational success.

MINOR CAPITAL WORKS

During the financial year we were successful in obtaining some funding and significant donations for some equipment. This equipment included:

- Infusion Pumps
- Oxygen Concentrator
- Urine Testing Machine
- Air Mattress
- Heart Start Machine

The Heart Start machine was able to be purchased because of a significant donation of \$6000 by the fund raising efforts of the Old Codgers Ball. This was added to with another cheque from the government instigated by Mr. Peter Lewis. On behalf of the staff and management I would like to thank you for this tremendous donation as this machine will certainly be put to very good use.

DAY CENTRE

Once again the Day Centre has a significant part to play in our community. Not only is the day centre tending to the needs of the local area but provide a mobile day care service to the more distant areas in our community as well. This requires a considerable amount of planning and organising, ably lead by Jill Miegel who goes about her work in a very quiet and orderly fashion. Well done Jill.

MEDICAL OFFICERS

I would like to thank Dr Sara Fensak, Dr Mohammed Al Kamil and Dr Inas Abdul Karim for their invaluable support and professional approach in delivering of medical services not only to patients and residents in our facility but to the community at large.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I would also like to thank Mr. Marc Maddaford Chairman of the Board of Directors for his support and dedication during times of change and challenge. Also to all the board members for their support. It has been a very challenging year, and I am certain that the ensuing year will be filled with even more. Lets face it, it is a journey we all travel together with the aim to improve the health status of our community.

Terry Wilby
Executive Officer/Director of Nursing