



c/- Funding Division
MidCentral District Health Board
PO Box 2056
Palmerston North
P | 06 350 8622
F | 06 350 8926

E | centralcancernetwork@midcentraldhb.govt.nz

Central Cancer Network (CCN) Quarterly Report: January – March 2009

This progress report for the Central Cancer Network (CCN) covers the period 1st January – 31st March 2009. This report summarises:

- Key achievements for this period
- Additional focus areas for the next quarter

Key achievements for this period:

CCN infrastructure

- **Governance Group** - has met once during this period – see appendices for minutes. Litea Meo-Sewabu has resigned from the group and Dr Colin Tukuitonga and Siloma Masina have been appointed to maintain a Pacific Peoples focus. CCN Iwi/Maori partnership model continues to develop.
- **CCN Sponsor** - with the resignation of David Meates from Wairarapa DHB, Murray Georgel, CEO MidCentral DHB has been appointed interim sponsor.
- **Strategic plan** – the Governance Group met for a full day in February 2009 to draft a strategic plan and vision for the Network for the upcoming years. A draft plan will be circulated to stakeholders for input during the next quarter.
- **Regional Cancer Health Needs Assessment (HNA) report** – this document has been finalised and disseminated widely in electronic and hard-copy form for stakeholders to utilise to inform their future service planning.
- **Cancer Control Planning Indications for 2009/10** – CCN has collated information about upcoming cancer control initiatives which have been circulated to DHBs to inform their planning processes. The Ministry of Health have notified the networks and DHBs of the priority focus areas for 2009/10, being Lung and Bowel cancer. The networks are to initiate 2-3 service improvement initiatives with respect to these two cancers and are to focus on both non-surgical cancer treatment planning and regional access to surgery. CCN will be reviewing its planned activities to meet these requirements.
- **Website / Newsletter** – a website and newsletter are currently under development.

General project activity

- **Prostate early detection testing decision support tool** (*providing a tool and training to GPs to assist them to have the conversation with men re early detection prostate testing*). – An evaluation questionnaire has been developed and disseminated to GPs that attended the training sessions. Results will be collated and reported next quarter.
- **Imaging Guidelines in Cancer Management** (*developing guidelines to inform the medical imaging procedures for the diagnosis, staging and surveillance of specific cancers*). – The Steering Group continues work to adapt the UK guidelines "*Recommendations for Cross Sectional Imaging in Cancer Management*" to fit the NZ healthcare environment.

- **Multi-Disciplinary Meeting (MDM) Framework** (*developing and implementing a framework to support the effective functioning of multi-disciplinary meetings*). – The implementation phase of this project has commenced with the development of a plan and formation of an Advisory Group to support MDM development across the region.
- **Clinical Trials Project** (*situational analysis of clinical trial activities across the region to identify areas for improvement and opportunities to inform and support advancement of clinical trial research*) – Situational analysis has been undertaken and CCN is working with stakeholders on developing the report with key findings and recommendations.
- **Cancer Research Register** – CCN has engaged with stakeholders nationally to assess the support for the development of a cancer research register. A briefing paper will be tabled at the next NZ Regional cancer networks meeting to discuss this concept further between the networks, Ministry of Health and Cancer Control Council.

Tumour stream activity

(working with stakeholders to identify and address service provision gaps within a particular tumour pathway, with the aim of improving services and streamlining the patients journey)

- **Lung** – The Draft Lung Report was presented to the Lung Cancer Steering Group and CCN Governance Group during February 2009. The recommended changes are currently being made and dissemination of the report to wider stakeholder groups is expected to happen around Easter.
- **Head and Neck** – A Head and Neck Steering Group has been established and has met twice to date. The next meeting is scheduled for 1st May and will focus on the multi-disciplinary meeting review and proposed pathway mapping.
- **Bowel** – CCN will be commencing work on this tumour pathway in the next quarter.
- **Skin** – Collation of information package material about skin cancer guidelines, service configuration and audit results continues and it is expected that the package will be released in the next quarter.

Addressing inequalities activity

(working with stakeholders to identify and address inequalities within cancer control, with an initial focus on those experienced by Maori and Pacific Peoples)

- **Engagement with Iwi/Maori**
 - The completed Hawkes Bay Engagement and Reducing Inequalities Discussion Document was received by the people of Hawkes Bay at a hui held on 4th March 2009. CCN continues to work with stakeholders to progress the recommendations.
 - CCN is working with the local cancer network in Whanganui to engage with their communities via a series of hui to identify service improvement opportunities.
 - CCN is working with a number of Cancer Society centres on the development of Maori responsiveness plans.
 - CCN facilitated a meeting between the Maori Cancer Coordinators currently employed in the region in MidCentral, Taranaki and Capital and Coast to enable them to meet and share information on each of their service models.
- **Engagement with Pacific Peoples** – Caren Rangi has been appointed as Service Improvement Facilitator – Pacific Communities (0.2 FTE). Her initial focus is on identifying existing research, networks and activity across the region focussed on cancer control within Pacific Communities to inform the way forward.
- **Cervical Screening Stocktake** (*cervical screening situational analysis reviewing the various contracting mechanisms, health promotion plans and coverage rates to determine which combinations are working well and how as a region can we improve overall service delivery*) – a report is currently being drafted.

- **Addressing Inequalities Pilot Funding** – The Governance Group have allocated \$73K of the 2008/09 budget to supporting pilot projects around the region aimed at addressing inequalities. The expression of interest process will be confirmed early April 2009 and communicated out to stakeholders.

Service Group Activity

- **Central Region Palliative Care Network (CRPCN)** – meetings for this group in 2009 are scheduled for 8th April, 8th July and 11th November. Work continues on implementing a regional medical specialist model to support Taranaki, Whanganui and MidCentral to deliver specialist palliative care services. CCN is working with the group to identify what its focus areas are going to be over the next few years.
- **Cancer Care Coordinators forum** – meetings for this group in 2009 are scheduled for 27th April (Wellington), 28th July (Palmerston Nth) and 17th November (Wellington). CCN has commenced a stocktake of roles and positions across the region.
- **DHB Cancer Managers Group** – meetings for 2009 are scheduled for 3rd June and 2nd December.
- **Local Cancer Networks** – CCN has attended local cancer network meetings in Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Hutt Valley / Capital and Coast during this period, updating on CCN activity and supporting them in their discussions. CCN has facilitated meetings with Taranaki stakeholders aimed at supporting the development of the local cancer network.

National activity

- **Guideline Implementation** – a consortium of the Regional Cancer Networks, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, MELNET, the Health Sponsorship Council, the Cancer Society, and New Zealand Guidelines Group has won preferred provider status for the following Ministry of Health's Guideline Implementation Plan RFPs:
 - Melanoma Guideline (released November 2009)
 - Early Breast Cancer Guideline (due for release)
 - Access and Referral to Cancer Services Guideline (due for release)
 Work on developing these implementation plans will commence next quarter

Additional focus areas for next quarter (April–June 2009):

- **Consumer representation framework** – CCN to develop policy and operational documentation to further support consumer representation across the region.
- **Pathology Guidelines** – CCN will need to review the planned activity in this area in light of the direction from the Ministry to focus its efforts around lung and bowel cancer.
- **Paediatric / AYA forum (proposed)** – engage with stakeholders to gauge the support for a regional planning group to be established to assist with service development
- **Supportive Care Guidance** – the networks will work with the Ministry of Health to develop a plan to support the implementation of these guidelines which are now due for release in April/May.

Murray Georgel
CEO, MDHB
CCN Interim Sponsor

Mike Grant
GM Funding MDHB
CCN Chair

Jo Anson
Network Manager
CCN

Appendix 1 CCN meeting minutes - 20th February 2009