

Eye & Ear Drum

Staff Bulletin



Drum Beat

Stephen Vale
Acting CEO

Celebrating Cultural

Diversity Week

Last week the hospital celebrated Cultural Diversity Week. The highlight was the signing of the Community Accord for Harmony Day. It was standing room only in Lucy Jones Hall as our Acting Board Chair Ms Catherine Brown signed the Accord together with the Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission Mr George Lekakis and witnessed by Board member Ms Katerina Angelopoulos.

It was great to see so many staff and key partners come together at this event and share in the celebration. In the spirit of 'live, work and prosper together', we took the opportunity to acknowledge the cultural diversity of our staff members as well as in our patient population. One in four of our staff identify as being from a different country.

The signing was an initiative of the Cultural Diversity Committee and the hospital is committed to following the ideals outlined in the Community Accord. The Accord will be framed and placed in a public place in the hospital, so that all who enter the Eye and Ear will know that we are an organisation dedicated to providing the best possible service that embraces cultural diversity.

Throughout the week I saw lots of people wearing orange ribbons to show their support for tolerance and harmony. It was also great to see the photos that staff shared online that represented many different cultures. It is now up to all of us to strive to meet the values within the Accord.

Hospital Commits to Cultural Diversity

The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital last week signed the Community Accord.

More than 70 people attended the event held in Lucy Jones Hall including the Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, George Lekakis, the Italian Consul General, Francesco De Conno, members of the hospital's Board of Directors, community leaders of cultural groups, health services and members of the hospital's staff.

The accord was signed by Acting Chair of the Board of Directors Catherine Brown and witnessed by board member and Cultural Diversity Committee Chair Katerina Angelopoulos and George Lekakis

The signed accord will be displayed so people who come to the hospital can see our commitment to providing the best possible services.

Wednesday, March 26 2008



Chair of the VMC George Lekakis (centre) with hospital board and staff members and the signed accord



Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Choir

A thank you goes to Dr Vishal Jhanji and Poni Poselli—members of our staff who spoke on the day about their experience at the hospital.

You can still view photos contributed by our staff on the intranet—follow the link from the Cultural Diversity page.

Its that time of the year again—flu season

Break out the tissues and the medicine—it's flu season again. But it doesn't have to be this way if you have the flu vaccination.

It is even more important for health care workers to be vaccinated because studies have shown healthcare workers can be the source of outbreaks in hospitals.

Myth: The flu vaccine can cause the flu

Fact: The flu vaccine cannot cause the flu because it is not a live virus. Sometimes people mistake colds for the flu

Myth: Last year I was vaccinated, but still got sick

Fact: You can get a cold virus that has some similar symptoms to the flu virus

Check your e-mail for details on when and where you can get your vaccination or contact Sue De Bono ext. 8569



Infection Control Consultant Janice Steilow gets her vaccination from Immunisation Practitioner Sue De Bono

One year of clerical Rotations proves beneficial to staff

This month marks one year of clerical rotations in out patients.

Before the rotation system was implemented, members of clerical staff would work on one particular clinic only, but for the past year they have been given the chance to work in different areas and learn new skills by rotating through a variety of clinics.

The rotation system was initially introduced in order to fill staff absences.

Clerical Team Leader (Outpatients) Robert Bak said now that members of his team are trained in a variety of areas it is easier to fill in positions if people are away.

“Staff members stay with each clinic for a period of either three, six or 12 months during which time they are skilled up to learn about each area.”

“It has been a success so far and my staff are enjoying the variety and learning new skills they can take with them in their careers.”

Outpatients Booking unit joined the rotation this year so now clinical clerical team members can fill in when members of OBU are away and vice versa.



The Clerical team including OBU

Orthoptics breakfast raises awareness

Passers by were given hot cross buns and guitar shaped occluder bookmarks in an event held to raise awareness about Orthoptics.

The event was a joint effort of the Orthoptic department at the Eye and Ear and the Orthoptic Association of Australia Victoria Branch.

People came away from the breakfast with a bite to eat and a head full of knowledge on orthoptics—this included the local fire fighters who came to show their support.



A Newsletter from The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital, Melbourne
Autumn 08

sight & sound

New Hope for Eye Condition Sufferers

Bill first noticed there was something wrong with his eyes in 1997 when he was building his house and severe pain meant he couldn't stand to go outside.

He put it down to something in his eye, but the pain persisted and after numerous trips to optometrists, he was diagnosed with Uveitis.

Uveitis is a condition causing inflammation of the inside of the eye, affecting thousands of Australians. It's not contagious and doesn't discriminate – it can touch any age or gender.

When it affects the middle or back part of the eye, it will usually always cause vision loss, unless it is controlled. Bill is a professional in his 40's, and didn't think he would face losing his sight at this age.

The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital is currently involved in a trial with the National Eye Institute of America, of a new treatment for Uveitis which will hopefully eliminate treatment side effects and improve the quality of life for people like Bill and the three other participants in the Australian trial.

Top: The 2.5 gram implant has to be drilled from the top and costs \$2,000 each, if you can get your approval by the Therapeutic Goods Administration but the corporate trial is working towards approval.

Bottom: Eye & Ear patient Bill helped participate in the trial to test the superiority of the new implant to improve his quality of life.

The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital

The Eye and Ear is the only investigating site outside the US. Under The Multicentre Uveitis Steroid Treatment (MUST) Trial researchers are surgically implanting a slow release steroid device inside the back half of the eye to reduce inflammation. This removes the need for daily oral steroid medications over a long period of time, the main treatment pathway for many sufferers, and will minimize side effects like high blood pressure, osteoporosis and facial hair.

Bill said since being diagnosed with the condition, it has been a roller coaster ride. Some days are good, other days he has thicker flatters in his vision or a grey cloud.

"The oral medication made my bones brittle and took calcium for granted. It. Water retention was also a big problem. Last year I removed the implant and my vision has been stable since."

Specialist Ophthalmologist Dr Richard Stowell said the trial compares the implants to traditional systemic treatment and patients who have received the implants have been pleased with the results.

Bill said he participated in the trial because the hospital has given him the chance to improve his therapy and he wanted to give something back.

Murray to Moyne riders need money

With the annual Murray to Moyne cycle race only 2 working weeks away, riders are still looking for sponsorship.

Members of the hospitals team will cycle for 520km over the weekend of April 5 and 6.

All money raised will be set aside and dedicated to special kids projects.

This week we will be launching a competition where departments can adopt a rider and all the department involved will go into a draw to win a hamper full of goodies.

In the meantime, dig deep and put some money towards sponsoring one of the riders or the whole team—keep your eyes on the Bulletin Board for more information.

The latest issue of *Sight and Sound* is out now. To get a copy for yourself or friends and family contact Kim Payne ext 8689

If you would like to submit a story for The Drum please contact: Kim Payne on ext. 8689 or e-mail: kimberlee.payne@eyeandear.org.au