

Chair's Report (2011 / 2012)
The Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Doctors' Health Program
12th November 2012

Management and administrative:

The staff at VDHP are to be thanked for their continuing hard work and dedication. Though the VDHP team is a small one, we have achieved much in the field of Doctors' Health this year.

The VDHP team meets weekly to discuss any administrative issues that may arise. This is a valuable opportunity for all staff members to voice any concerns they may have or to discuss issues that might affect the organisation, such as leave; on-call duties or any phone calls the Office Manager received that were of concern or need following up by a clinician.

The VDHP clinical team continues to meet weekly to confidentially discuss the optimal management and treatment plans specifically regarding CAMP agreement participants. This meeting also provides a forum in which to discuss any participants who may be of concern.

Throughout the year the VDHP staff have been continued to be supported by the VDHP Board and its two subcommittees:

The **Quality and Case Review** committee met on three occasions to review de-identified case summaries. This subcommittee can advise VDHP clinical staff on appropriate assessment, support and referral and policy directions.

The **Finance and Audit** subcommittee met twice this year and has continued to oversee financial matters and act as an internal auditing group.

The VDHP, along with Doctors Health Advisory Services from around Australia and New Zealand, is a member of the Australasian Doctors Health Network (ADHN). Dr Jenkins and Dr Pring have participated in regular ADHN teleconferences and face-to-face meetings.

Clinical work:

VDHP clinicians have continued to respond to clinical work demands in a timely and flexible fashion offering doctors and medical students urgent and out-of-hours appointments if necessary.

Figures showing the number of enquiries and face to face referrals in 2011/12 (1 July 2011 - 30 June 2012) are found below:

New enquiries	191
New face-to-face assessments	112
Follow up appointments	383
Participants on a case management agreement (as at 30 June)	50

VDHP has continued to update the panel of its treating physicians who are known to have expertise in treating doctors. The arrangements and agreements developed with The Melbourne Clinic and psychiatrists at the Albert Road Clinic have continued to work well in facilitating timely reviews and ongoing treatment for doctors who need psychiatric services.

Caduceus, our self-help group for doctors who have experienced, or are experiencing issues of substance misuse has continued to meet weekly at a suburban location. It has been facilitated, as previously, by experienced psychologists and attendance averaged eight to ten participants per week.

VDHP still offers a **case management program** that provides case management, aftercare and monitoring (CAMP) for doctors with substance use, mental health or physical health problems. VDHP case manages on average 45-55 doctors/students at a time. The CAMP program case managers coordinate the team of treating clinicians for the individual doctor-patient and can work with relevant personnel at the doctor's workplace to facilitate a "return to work" program. The treating team usually consists of a combination of a GP, psychiatrist, addiction medicine specialist, psychologist or counsellor. There were 50 participants on CAMP agreements on 30/06/12.

Education, presentations and publicity/promotion of awareness:

VDHP continues to provide lectures, information sessions and workshops about doctors' health issues at Melbourne, Monash, Deakin and Notre Dame (at Werribee Mercy Hospital) Universities. This includes presentations to medical students in their 3rd year at Monash Central campus as they enter clinical training and presentations to 4th year Monash students as they begin their psychiatry rotations. Workshops are conducted with post-graduate students at the Gippsland Campus of Monash University in the first week of their first year and presentations to interns/JMOs are conducted throughout the year in various teaching hospitals. VDHP also works with the Post-graduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) and presents at their orientation sessions for new International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

VDHP produced a newsletter, which is distributed at various meetings, conferences and workshops throughout the year. VDHP is currently researching ways to distribute the newsletter without the assistance of the former MPBV, who used to include it with one of their newsletters.

Research:

Our main research project has been a study of the characteristics of outcomes for CAMP participants. This study served to evaluate the case management work of VDHP. It showed favourable outcomes that are comparable to those of similar services overseas. *Letter to the Editor MJA?*

Future directions:

Future directions note

Dr Kym Jenkins
Senior Clinician/Medical Director