



# CNSA News

Volume 12 Issue 3

July 2007

## FROM WHERE I SIT....A REPORT FROM CNSA'S CHAIRPERSON Gabrielle Pres

### Welcome to the winter edition of the CNSA news!

As usual with the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia, there is a lot happening across the country and I'd like to highlight some of those activities briefly. From your review of the news letter you'll see and hear about significant outcomes and services and a great personal story of commitment and recognition (to Keith Cox, our WC Coordinator).

First up, I hope you have registered for the **Winter Congress** in Melbourne in August. Under the stewardship of a great local organising committee from both the CNSA and MOGA membership, the conference has shaped up to be a highlight meeting of the year! We are happy with the very enthusiastic interest in papers submitted for oral papers and posters (perhaps a record), registrations received and sponsorship from industry. There is even to be a combined choir!! It is a great time to reconnect with peers, and stop and hear about the good work being done by so many cancer professionals. Importantly, we will be acknowledging the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the CNSA. Hope you can join us for this happy event!! We are asking for those with experience and perhaps qualifications (and a keen interest!) to be involved in our new **Standing Committee on Education**. Apart from providing that expertise to the national executive of CNSA, you would be involved with initiatives such as the EdCan project.

I attended a forum in May on **Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer**, hosted by COSA, CanTeen and Cancer Australia. This was a very productive day and we look forward to important changes on the horizon to address the poorer outcomes evident in this group.

Similarly, the CNSA is involved in the NBCC working group developing a consumer guide/resource for psychosocial care, as a follow-up to the launch of the health professional guidelines in 2003. They will be launched at the WC.

Gabrielle Prest, Chair CNSA

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## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS



Keith Cox, an inaugural member of CNSA, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours for "service to nursing, particularly in the field of oncology, and to the community through a range of youth, church and welfare organisations".

Keith commenced his Enrolled Nurse training in 1970 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in

Sydney, and then undertook his General Nurse training in 1975, at the completion of which he was awarded the prestigious Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Medal for nursing excellence. He started to develop an interest in Cancer Nursing in 1978 while working in the fledgling Oncology unit at RPA, and his interest continued to grow while working at St Stephens Hospital in London. In 1980 he undertook the year-long Oncology Course at the Royal Marsden Hospital. Keith returned to Sydney in 1981 and was appointed to the role of Nursing Supervisor of the Oncology chemotherapy team at RPA, where he has remained working for the last 26 years. In 1986 he became a Clinical Nurse Consultant and in December 2005 was authorised as a Nurse Practitioner.

While enthusiastically committed to his work and profession, Keith has distinguished himself by his willingness to undertake a range of voluntary activities both within and beyond his place of work. His contribution to CNSA has been as the Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the 14th International Conference on Cancer Nursing in 2004, and for the last three years as the Chair of the Winter Congress Committee. He has spent time during his holidays (and at his own expense) in Papua New Guinea and Nepal, providing cancer nursing education programs and guiding the development of protocols for the safe handling of cytotoxic drugs.

For the last 10 years Keith has worked in a voluntary capacity for CanTeen and is currently a member of CanTeen's Sydney Central Division Management Committee. His work for St Vincent de Paul over the last 16 years has involved visiting impoverished people to distribute food vouchers and arrange payments for essential services. In addition, for the last 15 years Keith has coordinated a 'soup kitchen' in Kings Cross, feeding homeless and destitute people.

His award is a well-deserved recognition of a life of service to others.

## CNSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Would you like to work with a team of like-minded people and help guide Australian cancer nursing education? If so ... Read on and consider submitting an expression of interest to be part of this important committee.**

### Role of CNSA Education Committee

- Advise the CNSA National Executive Committee (NEC) on matters relating to nursing education and credentialing

### Specific Functions

- Provide expert knowledge, advice and information to the NEC on matters relevant to cancer nursing education
- Assist in the development and delivery of education programs, in collaboration with other providers (e.g. the TITAN program delivered to CNSA members in collaboration with Amgen)
- Review and comment on documents and educational resources produced by EdCaN
- Examine credentialing in relation to Australian cancer nurses
- Make recommendations to the CNSA NEC about credentialing

### Membership

CNSA NEC will choose committee members from expressions of interest submitted by members.

- Essential criteria includes a) Practice at specialist level, b) Knowledge of / interest in nursing education c) Interest in specialist cancer nursing education d) Interest in credentialing
- Expressions of interest will be sought every two years via CNSA News
- Positions on the committee will be two year renewable terms – with a maximum term of four years
- All persons must be CNSA members for the length of their term
- The selection will be based on demonstrated currency in knowledge of the field of cancer nursing, competency standards and competency based assessment, expertise, qualifications and state/territory of residence
- The committee will not exceed eight persons
- The NEC will invite one of those selected to Chair the committee
- If committee members are not able to contribute to the committee for a significant period of time, then they will be requested to resign their position to facilitate other member's involvement through inclusion on the committee.

### Communication

- Communication between the NEC and the Education Committee will be via the committee Chairperson
- The Chairperson will be responsible for communicating with other committee members
- Communication will be primarily by email, teleconference and at times post
- Opportunist face-to-face meetings of the committee may occur in consultation with the CNSA Winter Congress
- The Chairperson will submit a brief report on the activities of the committee and any proposals from the committee for each NEC meeting
- The committee will produce an annual summary report on the activities and achievements of the committee for inclusion in the CNSA Annual Report (submission due each April)
- The committee will submit a minimum of two articles per year, on information relevant to the committee, for inclusion in CNSA News

**Please send your expression of interest to Linda Barrett [lindabarrett@bigpond.com](mailto:lindabarrett@bigpond.com) by 30 August 2007**

## CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER

Information and support are a person's greatest need when they are affected by cancer. Doreen Akkerman AM, Director of the Cancer Information and Support Service at The Cancer Council Victoria tells us why.

'When someone receives a cancer diagnosis, their life and the lives of their family are changed forever. We know from research that a person's greatest need when they are affected by cancer is information and someone to talk to who has been through a similar experience. The Cancer Council has wonderful information and support services available for people concerned about cancer. I urge all nurses and other health professionals to refer cancer patients and others to the Cancer Council Helpline at 13 11 20.

'Cancer nurses staff the Cancer Council Helpline; they work very hard to assist callers with up-to-date information and emotional support, and respond to all questions about cancer. We don't provide individual medical advice to people; only their treating doctor can do that, we are here to give accurate cancer information and emotional support to help people cope with their situation.

## CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER cont.

'Our "Cancer Connect" program is a free and confidential telephone peer support service that links people affected by cancer to a trained volunteer who understands what they are going through. People with a cancer diagnosis, parents and carers will benefit from speaking to one of our Cancer Connect volunteers. We have also just launched a 'gene support' program for people who carry a gene that increases their risk of developing cancer.

'The volunteers listen to concerns and provide emotional support and practical advice at a time when it is most needed. People often tell us that speaking to a volunteer helped them feel 'reassured' and 'encouraged'. It lessened feelings of isolation and normalized their experience.

'The Cancer Council has more than 160 Cancer Connect volunteers who have had a variety of cancer experiences and we can link callers to this support at any stage throughout the cancer journey - at diagnosis, during and after treatment.'

*To be linked to a volunteer, people simply call the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20 and ask for the Cancer Connect program. A cancer nurse will talk to the caller about their experience and match them to a volunteer according to the callers needs either by cancer type, treatment, age or family circumstance. The volunteer will call at home at a convenient time.'*

*For more information, call the Cancer Council helpline on 13 11 20, Monday-Friday, 8.30am to 8pm or visit [www.cancervic.org.au](http://www.cancervic.org.au)*

## REGIONAL GROUP NEWS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Marie Condon

With strong backing from cancer nurses in Perth and surrounds, our first educational event for the year was held. This event was supported by four local speakers covering topics that included medical, surgical and radiation oncology, with 45 delegates attending. 5 new members signed up on the day to increase our total membership to approximately 55 nurses in WA.

Our second event for the year was a dinner education event held June 12 at Matilda Bay Restaurant. Generously sponsored by Pharmion, Roche, Merck Serono and Mayne Pharma, the event was attended by 46 cancer nurses. Daymon Joseph from Pharmion sponsored our primary speaker to Perth from Sydney. Jen Bichel-Findlay from The Cancer Institute of NSW gave a very informative presentation on the review of the CI-SCaT website and its future directions. Charlene Grosse a dietician from St John of God Healthcare Subiaco gave a presentation on Low Bacterial Diets for neutropenic patients. Charlene's presentation was based on a collaborative consensus which was reached following literature reviews by a working group of dieticians within Western Australia. This was of great interest to cancer nurses as their patients often endure periods of prolonged neutropenia.

The WA steering committee of CNSA consists of 9 experienced and dedicated cancer nurses. This committee has now submitted an application to the National Executive of CNSA for endorsement as a regional group with formal call for nominations for the first executive committee coming soon. We are currently planning the content of our next half day education meeting which will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Congratulations to our two WA members Gemma White (New Cancer Nurse) and

Marie Condon (Travel Grant) who have been successful in their CNSA grant applications and will be attending Winter Congress in Melbourne in August. .

## ADELAIDE RURAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP DECEMBER 2006

### Carina Boehm

Four nurses from metropolitan Adelaide ventured to Eyre Peninsula, on the West Coast of South Australia to provide an education day for our rural colleagues. Expressions of interest were called for through our regional newsletter. This day was made possible due to securing a grant available to CNSA Regional Groups as well as generous sponsorship from local Pharmaceutical Companies willingly assisting us with resources and books for this day. Rex Airlines also sponsored two of our return flights easing the financial cost considerably.

13 rural nurses attended the day long workshop at the local sailing club and topics covered included post treatment complications, venous access devices, radiotherapy management, paediatric perspective and late effects of cancer treatment. All participants received "goodie bags" comprising many resources, as well as raffles and door prizes. It was a busy full day for all involved and a worthwhile one according to the positive feedback received. We had asked for the preferred topics to be discussed and the only area we were unable to cover on the day was pain management.

Overall this was a beneficial venture which could be repeated with some changes. Following much hard work, the four of us really enjoyed our shared opportunity to interact with our country colleagues and offer our support and resources. On top of that we had great fun staying in wonderful accommodation and enjoying lots of laughs, a few drinks and even a few oysters, renowned from this area.

## SYDNEY

### Tracey Cosgrove

It has been an exciting first half of the year and the Sydney Executive committee have been working very hard behind the scenes. Our fundraising efforts have been very fruitful with a current bank balance of just over \$3000. Thank you to all those dedicated nurses who sacrificed their waist lines by eating and selling easter eggs. We currently have a number of projects on the burner:

1. Sponsoring a rural member to attend Education meeting at Sydney CNSA and be shown around a major cancer unit in one of our large teaching hospitals. (Still waiting for applications)
2. Sponsoring a rural member to attend Winter Congress in Melbourne. (Still waiting for applications)
3. Sponsoring 2 metropolitan nurses to attend Winter Congress in Melbourne. (Winners: Emma Smith and Polly Crowden)

To date there has been two very successful education evening's with over 50 members attending each. Our first education session had a Gynae Oncology focus with Dr Greg Gard and Vanessa Saunders presenting, which was gratefully sponsored by Sanofi Aventis at an Indian restaurant. The second for the year focused on Gastric cancers with Professor Goldstein and Viv Freeman, Emma Smith and Tracy Cosgrove presenting a case study which was recognised in Toronto at the International Cancer Nurses Conference. This event was sponsored by Novartis, which was held at a French Vietnamese restaurant.

After a recent review of our membership list, did you know that our Sydney membership boundaries extend from Broken Hill to Sydney and down to Albury.

For further information about the CNSA Regional Groups closest to you, contact a regional chair:

## REGIONAL CHAIRS FOR 2007

### Melbourne

Tina Griffiths  
Tina.Griffiths@petermac.org  
Ph: 03 9656 1925

### Sydney

Tracy Cosgrove  
tcosgrov@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au  
Ph: 02 9926 8200

### Adelaide

Tracey Doherty  
Tracey.Doherty@fmc.sa.gov.au  
Ph: 08 82045511

### Hunter

Lisa Bartley  
Lisa.Bartley@healthcare.com.au  
Ph: 02 4929872

### Brisbane

Lyn Clarke  
clarkel@ramsayhealth.com.au  
Ph: 07 3394 6739

## RADIATION ONCOLOGY NURSES - Special Interest Group (SIG)

Mary Duffy

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the current chairperson of the Radiation Oncology Nurses Special Interest Group (RONSIG). My name is Mary Duffy and I currently work at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre as the Nurse Coordinator of the Lung Service.

Membership - to join RONSIG is an easy 2 part process

1. Ensure you are a current CNSA member
2. Email me with your current contact details

If you are a current member of RONSIG I would be grateful if you could confirm with me before Winter Congress that I have your correct contact details in particular your email address.

There is a RONSIG meeting planned during Winter Congress (details will be in the program), I would like to circulate agenda beforehand. Some items to consider for

discussion include establishing small RONSIG committee with a view to outlining some simple but achievable goals for the coming year. I am happy to receive agenda items for discussion for any member

Finally a reminder to all RONSIG members Karen Dow who is a keynote speaker at Winter congress is giving a breakfast session for all delegates titled Radiation Oncology Nursing Perspectives which is a wonderful opportunity for us all to meet with one of the authors of the book titled Nursing Care in Radiation Oncology – Second Edition.

Look forward to meeting you all in Melbourne in August. Chair person RONSIG. Mary Duffy@petermac.org

## BREAST CANCER NURSING - Special Interest Group (SIG)

Tina Griffiths

The BCN SIG has had a good start to 2007 with an additional committee member coming on board to represent South Australia - a warm welcome to Judy Iasiello. The SIG management committee is now well represented with members from Vic, NSW, QLD and SA and hopes to continue in its role and move the activities forward that will assist all of you who are committed and/or interested in breast cancer nursing.

Our E-Journal club continues with the second journal article and an accompanying review being circulated via your email. The aim of this is to develop critical appraisal skills, impact on clinical practice and help you to keep up with the latest literature. If you find that you are missing out it may mean that I have had problems with your e-mail address – please forward your correct contact to me on Tina.Griffiths@petermac.org ASAP.

Melbourne was host to the 9<sup>th</sup> National Breast Care Nurses Conference in February 2007. Highlights of the conference included many good quality presentations from Breast Care Nurses and other nurses working in this sub-specialty of cancer nursing around Australia.

CNSA Winter Congress will have an excellent session totally dedicated to breast cancer and another on survivorship issues which will also be of interest and relevance to many of you – make sure you don't miss out. The BCN SIG will be holding its Annual General Meeting at Winter Congress, so please look for details regarding the date and time on the conference program. I look forward to seeing you there.

## NATIONAL CANCER NURSING EDUCATION PROJECT (EDCAN) - NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CANCER NURSES

The National Cancer Nursing Education Project (EdCaN) is a Cancer Australia funded project that will provide a framework and resources to prepare a nursing workforce that is capable of meeting the future needs of people with cancer.

### **Survey to identify the Competencies of the Specialist Cancer Nurse**

The draft competencies of a specialist cancer nurse are available for comment on the website. Thank you once again to all those who responded to our first survey. With 239 respondents it provided the team with information to develop the draft competencies of a specialist cancer nurse. The second survey was distributed to all Delphi one respondents who agreed to participate in the second survey, members of the Queensland Cancer Fund and EdCaN website stakeholders. Just over 1000 surveys were distributed. Thank you to all who have participated in this second round survey. There has been a fantastic result with over 270 surveys returned. Your responses will refine the specialist cancer nurse competencies on which the curriculum will be based.

### **CNSA pre-conference workshop**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007, EdCaN will be hosting a pre-conference panel discussion at the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) joint meeting with Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA). To be held between 8:00am-12:30pm, the topic of discussion is "The Question of Cancer Nurse Credentialing: Opening Pandora's Box ..."

This interactive panel discussion will consider the controversial issues of who can call themselves a specialist cancer nurse and the benefits and disadvantages of cancer nurse credentialing on patient outcomes, the profession and the multidisciplinary team. The discussion will be moderated by Peter Couchman, a well known broadcaster. Guest speakers will include Dr Karen Hassey Dow. The workshop will be of interest to specialist and advanced practice cancer nurses. Places will be limited. To reserve a place at this workshop please contact Cherry Horan on cherry.horan@edcan.org or Tel (03) 9656 3770. EdCaN encourages all CNSA members to review the website [www.edcan.org](http://www.edcan.org) and provide comment or feedback to the project team.

## ELECTRONIC MAIL OUT

CNSA Newsletter has commenced electronic mail out. Please ensure your e-mail address remains up today. If you wish to change the manner in which you receive your newsletter please advise by e-mailing [info@cnsa.org.au](mailto:info@cnsa.org.au).

## Haematology and Oncology Targeted Therapies Allied Health (HOTTAH)

The HOTTAH Grant was open to Allied Health Professionals this year to assist in the conduct of research or project initiatives that would be of benefit to the clinical oncology or haematology community within Australia.

Roche Products and COSA are delighted to announce that the Haematology and Oncology Targeted Therapies Allied Health (HOTTAH) grant has been won by Assoc. Prof Lynn Oldham and research team, the subject being "Determining the Needs of Grade III-IV High Grade Glioma Patients and their Carers.

Congratulations to A/Prof Oldham and our commendation to all those who participated.

## NURTURING NURSES AT EXCLUSIVE RETREAT

Fifteen senior nurses from Royal Perth Hospital, St John of God Subiaco, and Princess Margaret Hospital spent two days last week at Wandoo Hills Retreat in Toodyay for the second annual nurses' retreat courtesy of the Leukaemia Foundation in WA.

The nurses' retreat, which was booked out in record time, is an initiative of the Foundation to support the haematological nursing staff who provide care to the patients that the Foundation also assists. Sandy McKiernan, Support Services Manager for the Foundation was delighted by the outcomes of the retreat.

"The retreat is now become firmly established in the haematological nursing community as a relevant, effective and supportive environment for these front line nurses. During the two days, we discussed self care, stress and burn out management whilst implementing strategies for long term good health. This is a follow up to the strategies that were implemented as a result of the retreat in 2006" said Sandy.

Professor Martin Philpott and Lutz Pamberger, (Lecturer) both of University of Notre Dame School of Medicine (Counselling) delivered two sessions to the nurses on stress and burnout. "I thoroughly enjoyed participating at the nurses retreat and look forward to being part of this unique experience again next year" said Professor Martin Philpot.

Complementary therapy sessions, facilitated by volunteers such as massage, reiki and Pilates rounded out the two days.

The two day retreat is sponsored by the Leukaemia Foundation and was fully catered by Rosemary Madasci from the Empire Tearooms in Toodyay, and has the full backing of Margaret Wilson and Wandoo Hills Retreat. Wandoo Hills Retreat heavily subsidises the secluded and relaxing venue for the second year in a row, which is a wonderful support to the Leukaemia Foundation" said Sandy.

For more information on the Leukaemia Foundation please contact 1800 620 420 or visit [www.leukaemia.org.au](http://www.leukaemia.org.au)

## CNSA NEWS 2007

News articles, comments and items of interest from members are welcome and encouraged. Items should be forwarded in MS word format and pictures in JPEG format via email to Maree Bransdon, Editor : [maree\\_bransdon@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:maree_bransdon@health.qld.gov.au). **Deadlines** for remaining submission for 2007 is **17<sup>th</sup> September**.

## CALENDER REMINDERS - EVENTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2007

10<sup>th</sup> CNSA Winter Congress  
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne  
An inaugural joint meeting with CNSA and Medical  
Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA).  
Further information visit [www.cnsa.org.au](http://www.cnsa.org.au)

### 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007

9<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference  
Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria Australia  
Palliative Care Victoria in conjunction with Palliative Care  
Australia is hosting.  
Further information visit the conference website [www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007](http://www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007)

### 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007

NSW Breast Cancer Nurses Conference Sydney  
'Practicalities in Breast Cancer Care',  
Further information Sue Rovelli [susan.rovelli@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:susan.rovelli@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au).

### 3 - 5 October 2007

NursingAsia Singapore 2007  
Singapore  
The Inaugural Nursing Conference and Public Exhibition  
Voices of Leadership  
Further information [Conference@nursingasia.com](mailto:Conference@nursingasia.com) or [www.nursingasia.com](http://www.nursingasia.com)

### 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Oncology Nurses Group Conference  
Stamford Plaza Hotel Brisbane Queensland Australia  
Keynote Speaker: Professor Lillian Nail, Oregon Health &  
Science University Cancer Institute USA  
Further information contact:  
[Anne-MarieDewar@cancer.qld.org.au](mailto:Anne-MarieDewar@cancer.qld.org.au)

### 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007

8<sup>th</sup> Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Symposium  
Peshawar, Pakistan

### 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007

Hilton on the Park Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
Skill Mix and Workforce Development: sharing the lessons  
learnt  
Further information [www.changechampions.com.au](http://www.changechampions.com.au)

## CNSA Executive Contact Details

<b>Gabrielle Prest</b> CNSA CHAIRPERSON phone 0437 627 100 Email: <a href="mailto:gprest@leukaemia.org.au">gprest@leukaemia.org.au</a>	<b>Liz Zwart</b> Treasurer The University of Adelaide (Adelaide) PH: 08 82222991 Email: <a href="mailto:liz.zwart@adelaide.edu.au">liz.zwart@adelaide.edu.au</a>
<b>Catherine Jones</b> The Canberra Hospital (ACT) ph (02) 6244 2738 Email: <a href="mailto:Catherine.jones@act.gov.au">Catherine.jones@act.gov.au</a>	<b>Linda Barrett</b> Care Coordinator, Greenslopes Private Hospital (Qld) Ph: (07) 3394 7111 & pg 316 Email : <a href="mailto:lindabarrett@bigpond.com">lindabarrett@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Meg Rogers</b> Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute (Melbourne) Ph:03 96561111 page 7404 Email: <a href="mailto:megan.rogers@petermac.org">megan.rogers@petermac.org</a>	<b>Megan Plaster</b> Paediatric & Adolescent Cancer Nurse Coordinator WA Cancer & Palliative Care Network Phone: 0400 021 874 or Office: (08) 9346 4856 Email: <a href="mailto:megan.plaster@health.wa.gov.au">megan.plaster@health.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>Kate Cameron</b> Past Chairperson The Cancer Council SA Ph: 08 8291 4111 Email: <a href="mailto:kcameron@cancersa.org.au">kcameron@cancersa.org.au</a>	<b>Patsy Yates</b> ISNCC representative Queensland University of Technology Ph: 07 3864 3835 Email: <a href="mailto:p.yates@qut.edu.au">p.yates@qut.edu.au</a>
<b>Grants and Awards Committee</b> Email: <a href="mailto:info@cnsa.org.au">info@cnsa.org.au</a>	<b>Special Interest Groups (SIG) Coordinator</b> Email: <a href="mailto:info@cnsa.org.au">info@cnsa.org.au</a>
<b>Regional Groups</b> Email: <a href="mailto:info@cnsa.org.au">info@cnsa.org.au</a>	<b>CNSA News Contributions</b> Email: <a href="mailto:maree_bransdon@health.qld.gov.au">maree_bransdon@health.qld.gov.au</a>

National Executive Committee meeting dates: Pre Winter congress 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007

Please raise any issues with state representative members or the national Chairperson 2 weeks before this date.