

Women's & Children's Hospital

THE GREG BLEWETT OUTREACH PROGRAM  
SPORTING CHANCE CANCER FOUNDATION  
WOMEN'S AND CHILDRENS HEALTH NETWORK  
2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

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Government  
of South Australia

SA Health



Women's  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greg Blewett Outreach Program supports children with cancer and their families from regional and remote areas, who are receiving treatment at the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN), Adelaide. The program supports patients and families through education, liaison and coordination between services. The program also supports regional and metropolitan clinicians, and works to develop shared care services in areas with appropriate infrastructure and workforce. Support and services are provided across 4 states, with 17 health services receiving support and education by the program. Funding is provided from the Sporting Chance Foundation to employ a Clinical Practice Consultant at the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology/Oncology (0.8FTE). This report provides a summary of the service achievements during 2016/17, as well as plans for further development over the next 12 months.

### Increased Numbers of Families Supported

Following a review of service provision, consultation with Country Health SA (CHSA) and the WCHN Metropolitan Referral Unit, a decision was made to change the referral criteria for the Greg Blewett Outreach Program. Previously, children and their families living greater than 100km from the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) were eligible to be part of the service. This was to align with the South Australian Patient Assistance Transport Scheme. Upon reviewing the outreach program, it was found that there were significant gaps to children and their families who lived in rural areas outside of district nursing referral areas. Families living in rural areas including outer metropolitan and inner regional areas were also at a disadvantage travelling significant distances, without support, and also at risk of needing medical intervention outside of the specialist centre at WCH. It was identified that both families and the regional clinicians who may have contact with them, needed additional education and liaison support. This has been a welcome change to families, as evidenced by feedback from families who had already commenced treatment at the time of change. It has resulted in an approximately 25% increase in patients which are part of the Greg Blewett Outreach Program.

### Chemotherapy Training for Regional Nurses

The eviQ Paediatric Antineoplastic Drug Administration Course (PADAC) offered by the NSW Cancer Institute supports health professionals to develop the necessary knowledge and clinical skills to administer antineoplastic drugs and handle related waste safely. PADAC is used by SA Health to provide standardised education for the safe handling and administration of antineoplastic drugs as part of a nationally recognised framework. Following successful completion of the PADAC facilitator training, the regional outreach Clinical Practice Consultant facilitated and supported clinical placement for 3 Registered Nurses from Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH). As part of the placement all 3 nurses achieved accreditation to administer chemotherapy under the national framework. This has facilitated the safe administration of chemotherapy to paediatric patients under the shared care umbrella between WCHN and RDH. There are currently 2 patients receiving all chemotherapy and follow up within RDH, supported via telehealth.

### Trial of new Paediatric Chemotherapy procedure with Country Health South Australia

The Standards for Chemotherapy Services in South Australia (2010) state that people should have access to well-coordinated, safe, high quality chemotherapy at a location as close to home as possible. However, access to services for paediatric patients has remained limited due to risk stratification and service delineation framework. All children receiving treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia receive intermittent subcutaneous chemotherapy as part of their treatment program. Paediatric patients living within metropolitan Adelaide have access to community nursing services for the administration of this treatment in their home. Paediatric patients living in regional areas or outside of the metropolitan community nursing services referral areas do not have access to this service and are reliant on family members to administer this medication, or are required to travel back to the WCH each day for administration at the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology/Oncology. To better support this group of patients, a procedure has been developed in partnership with CHSA, to enable administration of the chemotherapy medication in Country Health Hospitals. This procedure has been endorsed by the CHSA chemotherapy services executive, with a trial planned for 2 patients commencing in July.

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

- 48 patients currently part of outreach service (distribution map page 6)
  - 27 on active treatment
  - 21 requiring coordination of travel and appointment scheduling, including telehealth consults
  - 10 patients of ATSI origin
- 30 patients currently receiving shared care and/or follow up within their local health care service
- 13 families able to reside at home during treatment with support of Greg Blewett Outreach Program
- 8 families supported to return home during and post treatment
- 17 health care services supported
- 10 telehealth consults
- 5 episodes of outreach travel
- 3 patients receiving intravenous/subcutaneous chemotherapy at their local health care service
- 10 rural/regional school visit/calls undertaken as part of Greg Blewett Outreach Program
- 5 patients receiving transition planning to adult services



## OUTREACH TRAVEL

There have been 5 episodes of travel undertaken in the last 12 months, supplementing the telehealth support provided by the Greg Blewett Outreach Program. The education and support provided during these visits were key in enabling children and their families to stay at home throughout treatment. It is also reflective of the changes in referral criteria for the Greg Blewett Outreach Program.

Outreach travel undertaken in the last year include:

- Balaklava (approx. 90km from WCH)

Support and hands on education on infusaports, paediatric assessment and febrile neutropenia was provided to the multi-disciplinary team at the local health service. Key relationships were developed improving communication between the shared care services. This was evident in the formal and informal communication between centres, particularly at the time of patient presentation to the local health care service.

- Nuriootpa (approx. 80km from WCH)

Education was provided to the local GP clinic on subcutaneous chemotherapy administration. This visit enabled chemotherapy to be administered closer to home, reducing the burden of travel to and from the Michael Rice Centre.

- Darwin (NT)

The visit to Darwin in February was planned to coincide with local chemotherapy administration, consolidating the education provided in the PADAC course and clinical placement the previous month. I was able to support the first chemotherapy administration within their local health care facility. I also presented the Paediatric and Youth Cancer Study Day in partnership with the Youth Cancer Service SA/NT. The course was attended by 8 paediatric nursing and allied health staff. The evaluation can be found in Appendix 1. Two school visits and family support visits were also undertaken.

- Williamstown, Greenock, Tanunda (Barossa Valley, 50-74km from WCH)

Visits were undertaken to these regions as part of the Oncology Education Advisory Group, school visit program. School visits are a vital aspect of maintaining links within communities, supporting regular engagement for children with their education and peers, as well as safe and supported return to school when able. Information is provided on the child's diagnosis and treatment plan, and how to monitor their health and wellbeing, as well as optimise education opportunities. A joint poster was presented at the Australia and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group Annual Scientific Meeting on the benefits of the school visit program (see p8).

- Kapunda (85km from WCH)

This visit provided support and education to the local health service on paediatric assessment and febrile neutropaenia. This site has been flagged as a trial site for the newly developed CHSA procedure to administer subcutaneous cytarabine to paediatric patients. The opportunity was also taken to undertake a school visit, further enhancing community supports.

## GREG BLEWETT OUTREACH PROGRAM 2016/2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Service review enabling improved coordination and support for patients, families and clinicians in rural areas.
- Development of procedure in partnership with Country Health SA, "Administration of subcutaneous cytarabine to paediatric patients receiving treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia at Country Health South Australia Hospitals", to enable the safe administration of subcutaneous chemotherapy for paediatric patients outside of the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology/Oncology.
- Completion of PADAC facilitator training, enabling provision of formal chemotherapy training and accreditation as per the national framework for chemotherapy competence.
- Development of the PADAC training workshop in partnership with Michael Rice Centre Nurse Educator.
- Development of the framework and support for the clinical placement of 3 RDH paediatric nurses to become chemotherapy competent.
- 3 patients receiving IV/SC chemotherapy at their local health care service
- Organisation and presentation at the Paediatric Haematology/Oncology study day at Royal Darwin Hospital.
- Development of the draft Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement (MOAA) between WCHN and RDH clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of the shared care centres (currently under review).
- Improved links with adult services to facilitate seamless transition between paediatric and adult services.
- 10 telehealth consults resulting in reduced need for travel by patients and their families to WCH.
- Provision of videoconference education sessions to support regional clinicians.
- In person education in rural areas to supplement telehealth support.
- Close liaison with multidisciplinary teams to enable palliative and end of life care in the child's own home.
- Ongoing liaison with remote Aboriginal communities to enable safe care and follow up.
- Supporting respite visits home for critically unwell patients and their family.
- Providing support and education to the nursing team at Women's and Children's Hospital on the specific needs of rural and remote children and their families, what services are available in regional areas and how to access them.
- Provision of direct clinical care by the Clinical Practice Consultant in the Michael Rice Clinic/Ward to maintain specialist paediatric oncology clinical skills.

## Presentations

- Joint poster presentation at Australia and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting: Monteiro K, Carroll C, Fernandez K, Turpin K, Gannoni A, Hill S, Whelan K, Cameron K (2017) School visit program: A combined approach. Adelaide SA.
- Royal Darwin Hospital Paediatric and Youth Education Day – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017
  - Nursing Assessment in Paediatric Oncology
  - Management of Nursing Complications in Paediatric Oncology
- Presentation to Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Oncology Nursing), the University of Adelaide, on Greg Blewett Outreach Program and unique needs of paediatric oncology patients and their families - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- Haematology/oncology team regarding the aims of Greg Blewett Outreach Program and raising awareness for country patients and their families

## Course & Conference Attendance

- Attendance at the 2017 ANZCHOG Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide SA.
  - Chaired session: Developing Standards in Paediatric Psychosocial Care for Australia

## GREG BLEWETT OUTREACH PROGRAM 2017/2018

The next 12 months will focus on the consolidation and expansion of chemotherapy services within regional South Australia and the Northern Territory. The Greg Blewett Outreach Program will also review patient resource materials as well as febrile neutropenia and clinical assessment tools for metropolitan and regional hospitals, including the following:

- Review patient resource materials used by regional patients and their families
- Develop tool for use for febrile neutropenia presentations
- Implement cytarabine procedure in CHSA following trial at 2 CHSA sites
- Examine feasibility of expanding chemotherapy administration in country SA
- Implement MOAA with RDH
- Continued training and support of staff at RDH for chemotherapy competence
- Examine feasibility for chemotherapy training and administration at Alice Springs Hospital

## APPENDIX 1

### ROYAL DARWIN HOSPITAL STUDY DAY : COURSE EVALUATION SUMMARY

# Cancer Care for Young Children and Adolescents 2017

## Session Feedback

	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
<b>Overview of childhood Cancer</b>			2	6
<b>Common AYA Malignancies</b>			1	7
<b>Oncology Complications and Nursing Management</b> Shandelle Hill			2	6
<b>Consumer Panel</b>				8
<b>Support Groups / NT Services</b>			4	3
<b>Grief and Loss in Cancer</b>			2	6
<b>Self-care</b>			3	5
<b>Communicating with Adolescents</b>			3	4
<b>Sexual Health &amp; Fertility Preservations Options</b>			1	6

## Comments

- Great information presented today.
- Consumer panel was especially eye opening. Great to have firsthand ‘feedback’ on how to improve our care of cancer/all patients.
- The day has been very informative. All speakers very knowledgeable and passionate regarding their work. However, due to not being exposed to this area of nursing, I wish there was some pre-

reading if possible, that would have been helpful. The handouts are helpful but some of the print was very small.

- Overall a very good day.
- A very special thanks to the consumer panel – very brave.
- Nursing management felt a little rushed.
- The grief and loss session was excellent, loved it.
- An amazing education day, full of information.
- Good education session. Lots to learn and integrate regarding cancer care.
- Rebecca’s presentation was very informative.
- Shandelle’s presentation was extremely relevant to our practice and very interesting.
- Consumer panels talk very moving and touching to hear their stories.
- The grief and loss presentation was great – very helpful.
- Support groups presentation was extremely informative. Did not realise how many services were available.
- Great presentation given by Mel. Interesting and very relevant.
- The teleconference was really great and interactive.
- Found the grief and loss presentation excellent. Very informative, presented really well and very engaging.
- The support group was a great idea. Gave good insight to patient’s journey and struggles.
- Canteen presentation was great with videos that kept it interesting.
- Self-care presentation is always such an important topic and always reminds me to look after myself.
- Very interactive and informative day.
- Found all information helpful and interesting.
- Great that we were given handouts to reflect back on.
- Ran on time and followed the schedule.
- Much appreciation to all speakers and organisers.

## Overall considerations

	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
<b>Course Objectives were met</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>My Clinical Knowledge was Enhanced</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>My knowledge of expected Clinical practice was enhanced</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>

<b>The sessions overall have Prompted me to seek more Information</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
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**What could be changed or included to improve the study days?**

- Overall study day was fantastic. The presentations were very informative and well presented. Thank you for coming to Darwin to teach and expand our knowledge on this extremely valuable information.
- Loved and appreciated the consumer panel – maybe having a family member speak too.
- Grief and loss was a favourite!
- Thought all information was relevant.