



## GENERATIONAL HEALTH REVIEW

The Generational Health Review Report was publicly released in June this year. In summary, there are some significant changes that have been announced: the introduction of population based funding for 2004/05; the establishment of two metropolitan Regional Health Services and abolition of local hospital boards; the priority given to primary health care service models; the introduction of a medical advice telephone service on a 24 hour per day, 7 days a week basis; the establishment of a Clinical Senate at a state level; the retention of existing organisational arrangements in country areas but with a strong encouragement to pursue more efficient organisational arrangements that have enhanced service delivery, cost efficiency and less duplication among providers as major drivers for the need for reform.

*"The Minister has made it clear that 'no change' is not an option."*

The Government response to the GHR has been released in the form of a document entitled *First Steps Forward*. The release of the GHR and the acceptance by Government of the major findings is welcome and the implications for country Regions and local health services are significant. The challenge has been issued for us to work together in improving the delivery of health services. The Minister has made it clear that 'no change' is *not* an option.

The implementation process relating to the 'First Steps

Forward' document has commenced. Lead responsibility for the reform process has been allocated to the Major Projects Unit within DHS, headed by George Beltchev. Regional Board Chairs have met with Jim Birch, Chief Executive, DHS, to discuss the engagement of Regional Board Chairs and Regional General Managers (RGMs) in the implementation process and how this could best occur. Jim is keen to involve RGMs and Chairs in various task groups that will be established to oversee particular elements of the reforms. At this stage, we are aware that task groups are being established for governance, the Northern and Central Region, Southern Region and Child Youth & Women's Health. Mark Diamond has been nominated to the Central & Northern Metropolitan Task Group. While these processes are occurring, RGMs are all pursuing initiatives within their own regions in response to the First Steps Forward document.

The major announcement of particular importance to rural SA is the confirmation of a Rural Health Summit scheduled for 24 October 2003. The Summit is intended to mark the commencement of a coordinated process of reform for country regions. Importantly, the Minister has indicated that country regions are in the best position to determine the course of change that best meets the needs of their communities. It is envisaged that some common themes will be identified on this day and a process for the reform process in country SA determined.

The GHR Report is available for download at:  
<http://www.health.sa.gov.au/sahealthreform/>

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## EUDUNDA & KAPUNDA EXPERIENCES

### Monster Gala Day

After many months of planning, our Monster Gala Day in April turned out to be a Monster Success. This major fundraiser was to collect funds for the 'Light on the Hill Garden' and our target was achieved thanks to the Eudunda Community and Volunteers of the Health Service. We were blessed with a fine day, which attracted a wonderful crowd who demolished our food rapidly and were very generous at all our stalls. We hope to have a similar day next year to celebrate the opening of the Hostel Redevelopment.



**Board Members cooking the BBQ**

### New Clinical Manager

In January this year, Jason Kearon, was appointed to the position of Clinical Manager. He has come to us with a strong background in Palliative Care and an interest in Aged Care. Jason has brought with him the male perspective of nursing and has fitted into our team very well.

## TAI CHI IN CYP

In 2002 the Yorke Peninsula Division of General Practice, was successful in an application to the Commonwealth Government for funds to establish Tai Chi exercise groups for isolated rural townships on Central Yorke Peninsula.

The aim of the project is to provide training to interested people and to promote Tai Chi as a positive and safe exercise activity for all community members regardless of age, health or mobility. The role of the leader is to establish a membership and to participate actively in the group. Leaders have the opportunity to attend at least 3 full day workshops and to become very familiar with the Tai Chi and Chi Kung exercises.

Over 50 people from across Yorke Peninsula attended the "Come and Try" Tai Chi day at Maitland in March. Allan Kelson and 4 Instructors from The Tai Chi and Chi Kung Institute of Australia provided us with an introduction to Tai Chi and Chi Kung. All those present participated enthusiastically - young and not so young, sitting or standing, the training session was very informative and motivating. Since then, more training has occurred, and the Commonwealth Government Rural Chronic Disease Initiative has announced that additional funds for training and development has been approved which means YP Tai Chi can move forward and provide additional support to some leaders wanting to learn and teach more Chi Kung and Tai Chi !



Sessions are being held in Ardrossan and Maitland, as well as The Station in Wallaroo, The Peninsula Residential Care Centre, TAFE in Kadina, Moonta Health & Aged Care Service, Star of the Sea and Pt Turton. In fact, groups are popping up all over the peninsula ... all because community members have taken an interest in their own health and the health of others.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Jo Pilger at the Yorke Peninsula Division of General Practice on 8821 4066 or [jo.pilger@yp-connect.net](mailto:jo.pilger@yp-connect.net)