As we move through a new year, we would like to take this opportunity to note the achievements for the first few months of 2017

Welcoming new committee members
We are sad to see long-term members leave our work groups and thank them for their enormous contribution. We do recognise that membership renewal is vital to ensure that the VRCN remains relevant to the sector, and has sufficient diversity of relevant experience and new perspectives, and provides leadership opportunities for new members.

We welcome Nuala Barker and Lisa Murphy, who joined the leadership group, Drs Scott Wilson and Peter Mount, who have joined the KPI Work Group, and Sean O’Sullivan and Monika Page who joined the Environmental Special Interest Group (ESSIG).

Welcoming new executive leadership
As of 1 January 2017 the VRCN transferred to Safer Care Victoria (SCV) under the stewardship of Prof. Euan Wallace. SCV is responsible for leading a patient-centred approach to quality and safety improvement with a goal of zero avoidable harm and best health outcomes.

All Victorian clinical networks are now co-located in the Clinical Engagement Branch of SCV under the directorship of Robyn Hudson. A clinical network framework is being developed by Dr Grant Davies, and this is expected to be completed by June 2017. The framework will determine the VRCN’s future role, function and work plan. A framework development workshop for all network managers and leads will be convened on 21 April 2017, and a feedback workshop will be convened for all clinical network leadership groups on 19 May 2017. We look forward to the final framework.

Focus of our work to date
The focus of our work for early 2017 has been to disseminate resources on the web and via webinars. To date, the feedback on our webinars has been very positive, and we encourage your participation with these.

Work was underway to develop a renal patient experience survey. The plan was to develop a survey tool consistent in design with the Victorian Health Experience Survey (VHES) but with specific questions for renal patients. This has been put on hold because the VHES program has moved to the Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI). The VHES contract expires in June 2018 and VAHI plan to review the program.

We were also exploring the development of a state-wide renal transplant workup electronic management tool. This involved drafting a proposal for external funding submissions but with the uncertainty over future funding this has also had to be delayed.

Renal newsletter
We distribute this newsletter to our contact list of more than 600 renal healthcare professionals. Feel free to subscribe or to unsubscribe via renal.clinicalnetwork@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment.

Save the date!
VRCN Conference: High Quality Safe Renal Care, Improved by Information
Friday, 15 September 2017

The VRCN is pleased to announce that the 2017 renal conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

A conference website will be released shortly with further information including details for abstract submission.

The free conference will provide opportunities for presentations and networking.

Contacting the VRCN
Email: renal.clinicalnetwork@dhhs.vic.gov.au
The VRCN website provides information about network activities and useful information including links to:
• the Renal Health Program
• the KPI data entry portal and quarterly reports
• VRCN committee information
• clinical guidelines.
Hepatitis B infection control in haemodialysis centres

The *Hepatitis B infection control in haemodialysis centres* consensus document was completed in response to a hepatitis B virus transmission event that occurred between two patients who attended the same dialysis unit.

Steve Holt convened a webinar to assist with implementing the consensus document. The webinar was accessed by more than 165 participants.

The webinar has been recorded and is available for staff who were unable to attend. We encourage you to take the time to review the webinar and ensure your policy aligns with it and that your staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to hepatitis B infection control in haemodialysis centres.

The [HBV webinar recording](#) is available.

Accessing the webinar recording:

- For those who registered for the webinar, you can simply log in using your email address.
- For those who didn’t register, you will need to complete the registration form to access the recording.

Mid-year reports due from the six VRCN funded improvement projects

- Pathway Options to Improve Supportive care in ESRF (POISE) – Eastern Health
- Collaborative Renal Supportive Care: Developing coordinated patient-centred care across the care continuum for patients opting for renal supportive care management – Monash Health
- The development of guidelines for adolescents and young adults with chronic kidney disease transitioning to adult care – Monash University
- Renal supportive care of patients with advanced chronic kidney disease: experience, attitudes and approach of nephrologists and nephrology trainees – St Vincent’s Health
- SCOPH-DIALYSIS-VIC: Standardising Care, Outcomes, Uptake and Persistence in HOME DIALYSIS in VICtoria – Western Health
- The REDUCTION study – NHMRC Partnership Grant

Kidney Health Australia (KHA) collaboration

Thanks to Marie Ludlow, the VRCN has been afforded an opportunity to collaborate and review the KHA patient information booklet *An introduction to symptom management and supportive care.*

A big thank you to the reviewers who nominated to make up the multidisciplinary team: Diane Chaffers, Gaylene Reid, Gregory Deacon, Jennifer Bakker, Jenny Beavis, Jenny Soding, Kathryn Ducharlet, Kerry Linton, Lisa Colquhoun, Margaret Bird, Matthew Roberts, Sarah Margary, Trish Kinkade and Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh.

We thank you for sharing your time and expertise and look forward to continued collaboration with KHA.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone (03) 9096 0473 or email [renal.clinicalnetwork@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:renal.clinicalnetwork@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

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**Environmental Sustainability Special Interest Group (ESSIG) update**

By Katherine Barraclough

The ESSIG has completed analysis of the GREENS Survey (Gauging Responses to Environmental Efficiencies in Nephrology Services). A summary slide set of results is being prepared and will be sent to all renal units in Victoria. The ESSIG Work Group is currently recruiting a local GREEN representative from each dialysis unit to help disseminate best practice guidelines in environmental sustainability across renal services. ESSIG are also drafting a disaster plan and patient and staff fact sheets for dialysis units. The purpose of the latter is to encourage the renal community to adequately prepare for the potential impacts of extreme weather events on renal service delivery.

**KPI Work Group update**

By Nigel Toussaint

The KPI Work Group is continuing to work closely with the REAP Work Group to review KPI-1 on patient education. Additionally we plan to publish the *KPI quarterly CEO report* more timely with assistance from all hubs and align the KPI-4 (peritonitis) with the ISPD reported units (incidence per patient year).

Discussions are underway in relation to the two Tasmanian renal units joining the Victorian KPI Program.

**REAP Work Group update**

By Matthew Roberts

The Renal Patient Education Advancement Project (REAP) Work Group has completed the *Victorian renal patient education framework*.

The framework was launched at a webinar on 29 March at which Liz Stephenson (Nephrology Nurse Practitioner, Bendigo Health) and I discussed the framework and its application. The webinar was attended by around 40 participants. The framework webinar recording is available.

The toolkit and syllabus are currently undergoing targeted consultation via a survey that will close on 30 April. If you haven’t received a survey and wish to participate please contact Simone Gleeson via <Simone.Gleeson@easternhealth.org.au>.

The REAP Work Group will conclude in June 2017.

**Acknowledging renal consumers**

On behalf of the renal sector we wish to acknowledge our renal consumer representatives for their continued participation and commitment to representing the voice of renal patients in Victoria.

**Our VRCN consumer representatives:**

Cathy Bowden, Wayne McGlone and Dan Ussher