ACI State Spinal Cord Injury Service (SSCIS) is undertaking a project to review and further develop the model of care for the management and support of children and adults with a spinal cord injury in NSW, and invites you to express interest in being part of the consultation process.

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for the initial or ‘diagnostic’ phase of the project to review and further develop the model of care for people with a spinal cord injury in NSW. The aim of this newsletter is to keep relevant stakeholders, including clients of spinal cord injury services, informed of progress and to seek your involvement in key project activities. This edition includes:

- a background and overview of the project, and
- an invitation for health professionals, consumers and other key stakeholders to express interest in being involved in consultations to improve outcomes for people with a spinal cord injury in NSW.

**Background and overview**

The SSCIS is committed to ensuring people with a spinal cord injury residing in NSW receive the highest quality services, coordinated in collaboration with other stakeholders to facilitate individual independence and achievement of goals.

The current *Selected Specialty and Statewide Service Plan (Number 8): Spinal Cord Injury* released by the Department of Health in December 2010 expires in 2016. Therefore, it has been agreed SSCIS will undertake a project to review the current model of care and expand it to include the lifelong management and support of children and adults with spinal cord injury. The model will inform future service planning and agreements. The review seeks to understand spinal cord injury management systems and practices, how supra Local Health District services (previously known as statewide services) are currently delivered, identify...
the needs of consumers, and evidence-based practice gaps in service provision. Using this, areas for more detailed improvement will be identified and will be the focus of the second or Solution Design phase of the project.

**Key activities and timeline**

**Consultations with health professionals and consumers**

One of the key activities to inform the diagnostic report will be a series of consultations with stakeholders working in or receiving spinal cord injury services. The purpose of the consultations is to understand the current life-long journey for an individual with a spinal cord injury, identify important issues, and capture information on what is important to individuals and families accessing spinal cord injury services in NSW.

The consultations will include an online survey and a combination of one-on-one interviews and group discussions with health professionals and consumers across the three metropolitan spinal specialist services, regional and rural centres, primary care, community organisations and non-government organisations.

A workshop will be held in August with key stakeholders to seek consensus and confirmation of issues identified through the consultation process.

The project team is currently liaising with these centres across NSW to arrange site visits for consultations. This newsletter includes a form for you to express your interest in taking part in different stages of the consultation process and/or subscribe to this newsletter for regular updates. We would appreciate your support in distributing this newsletter and attached form to clinicians, clients, carers and other stakeholders with an interest in the services, management and support of people with a SCI in NSW, to provide them with the opportunity to be involved.

**BALLINA GROUP CONSULTATION IN JULY 2016**

A group consultation will be taking place with health professionals, consumers and other stakeholders in Ballina during the month of July (date, time and venue to be advised). If you would like to express your interest in taking part, and are happy to be contacted by a member of the project team, please complete the form on the next page and return to a member of the Rural Spinal Cord Service at the Ballina Clinic. Alternatively you can scan and email it back to Marina.Davis@health.nsw.gov.au

For further information please contact Frances Monypenny, Manager SSCIS, Frances.Monypenny@health.nsw.gov.au or Marina Davis, Project Officer, Marina.Davis@health.nsw.gov.au
Invitation to Participate
A model of care for spinal cord injury: consultation

Background
The SSCIS is committed to ensuring people with a spinal cord injury residing in NSW receive the highest quality services, coordinated in collaboration with other stakeholders to facilitate individual independence and achievement of goals.

ACI State Spinal Cord Injury Service (SSCIS) is undertaking a project to review and further develop the model of care for the management and support of children and adults with a spinal cord injury in NSW.

How you can get involved
One of the key activities to inform the diagnostic report will be a series of consultations with consumers, health professionals and other key stakeholders working in, or receiving, spinal cord injury services.

The purpose of the consultation is to understand the current life-long journey for an individual with a spinal cord injury, identify important issues, and capture information on what is important to individuals and families. There are a number of ways that you can participate in the consultation process, including: online survey, telephone interview and group discussion.

A group consultation will be taking place with health professionals, consumers and other stakeholders in Ballina during July (date, time and venue to be advised).

If you would like to express your interest in taking part, and are happy to be contacted by a member of the project team, please complete this form and return to a member of the Rural Spinal Cord Service at the Ballina Clinic or scan and email to: Marina.Davis@health.nsw.gov.au

Ballina Consultation in July
Name: ___________________________________

I identify as a (please tick):

• Consumer/client ☐
• Carer/Family member ☐
• Health professional ☐
• Other (please specify): ☐

I would like to take part in the following consultation activities (please tick one or more):

• Online survey ☐
• Group Discussion ☐
• Telephone interview ☐

Contact Details (please tick preferred method):

Phone: ____________________________ ☐
Email: ____________________________ ☐
Address: ____________________________ ☐

I am completing and signing this form on behalf of someone else with their permission ☐

I would like to subscribe to the newsletter to receive project updates ☐

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

For further information please contact:
Frances Monypenny, Manager SSCIS,
Frances.Monypenny@health.nsw.gov.au or
Marina Davis, Project Officer,
Marina.Davis@health.nsw.gov.au

www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au