

NEWS

July 2011 Issue No 86

Inside this issue of the Pursuits Group News

- Director's News
- Employee Awards
- A good laugh for people in the over 50 group
- Seniors Transport Service

EMPLOYEE AWARDS

This quarter we would like to acknowledge our two Senior Support Workers

Noelene Hayes

and

Natalie Willis-Andrews

For the professional manner in which they carry out their roles, particularly the constructive feedback they provide to us regarding our clients

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The financial year has come and gone again very quickly and we are now well into the new financial year.

NURSE PRACTITIONER

In 2009 during the development of our five year Strategic Plan we made a decision to focus the company to become a specialist care service provider. We believed that it was necessary to move in this direction to enable people with complex health issues and other life limiting illnesses to live in their own homes for as long as they choose to do so. At that time we also committed to investigate alternative options for care for people with dementia in the terminal stage of their life.

As part of our shift in focus, one of our RN's undertook a Master's degree to become a Nurse Practitioner (NP) and a number of our care workers have been trained to Certificate IV level to ensure the successful provision of specialist care services. The NP, during her Masters project was granted a Scholarship with the WA Dementia Training and Study Centre.

As a result of our strategic thinking and subsequent action we can now advise that we are able to offer Nurse Practitioner services to people over the aged of

65 who are living in their own homes. A Nurse Practitioner's scope of practice includes client assessment and diagnosis; prescribing medications; ordering and analysing pathology and radiological tests; referring patients to other health professionals; and undertaking patient care on referral from health professionals. It is important to note that the Nurse Practitioner will at all times work in a consultative manner with GP's.

The Nurse Practitioner can visit people in their own home and claim part of the cost of services provided through Medicare.

SPECIALISED CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

The Nurse Practitioner focused much of her study on the care of the person with dementia and is working in a collaborative manner with the Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service. Additionally we now have a pool of Support Workers who are well trained and who have specific skills to work with people with dementia.

If you are caring for a person with dementia and would like to discuss the services we have to offer please call Shannon on 9408 1100.

PATRICIA TASSELL
Director

A GOOD LAUGH FOR PEOPLE IN THE OVER 50 GROUP

When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a mobile phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my mobile phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Bunnings talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes,

she would sarcastically say, "Recalc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead. Well, it was not a good relationship.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I

check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them in with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, No, but I do toot a lot."

Us senior citizens don't need any more gadgets. The TV remote and the garage door remote are about all we can handle.



SENIORS TRANSPORT SERVICE

Our Transport Service is operating well and the costs for the service can be reclaimed by Gold Card holders from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

If you would like more information about how you can access this service please call Linda Grey on 9408 1100.

