



interRAI Informer

Your update on interRAI in New Zealand

Issue 4: August 2016

Welcome to the regular news updates for the health care sector about interRAI in New Zealand. This newsletter aims to provide an opportunity to share information in a common language, across many platforms, for the development of services that lead to improved health outcomes for our older people.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to this newsletter or ideas for items we should cover, please let us know: interRAI@dhbss.health.nz

Independent project review – Progress and notice of upcoming survey

The independent Post-Project review of the Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (interRAI) in Aged Residential Care project, which began in June, is now looking to take the next step in the review process and talk to facility managers. The project, which is being carried out by Evaluation Consult, has already undertaken a document review and conducted some background interviews to inform the review process.

For the next stage, the team will be sending out invitations to all facility managers inviting them to participate in an online survey.

Running from 16 August to 20 September, this survey provides an opportunity for facility managers to give feedback on behalf of their facility in regards to the introduction and use of the interRAI Long Term Care Facility assessment tool. Please keep an eye on your inbox as the review team would like to hear from as many facility managers as possible.

The review team will also be complimenting the survey results through in-depth interviews with a purposeful sample of both large and small provider organisations.

interRAI NZ reaches a milestone!

As of 18 July this year, interRAI users in New Zealand have officially completed 100,000 Long Term Condition Facility assessments!

And while it came down to mere seconds, by our calculations, Myung Sook Kang of Terra Nova Jervois in central Auckland completed the 100,000th assessment.

Congratulations Myung!

Trained by TAS Educator Linda vanBussel, Myung has been an interRAI Long Term Care Facility assessor since 2013.

We have just completed our end of year reporting and are very pleased with what everyone has achieved.

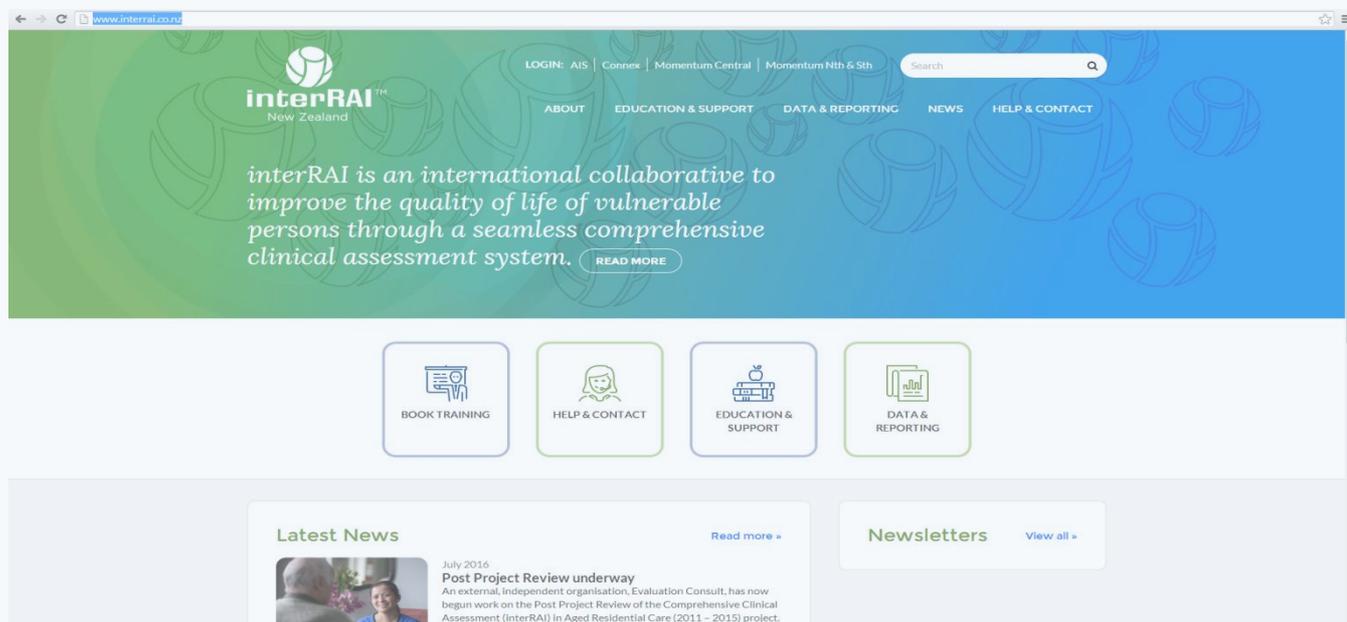
End of year LTCF achievements

We have just completed our 2015/16 end of year reporting for LTCF, with key highlights including:

- 960 ARC assessors trained, 881 to competency
- 76% of assessors are continuing to use interRAI
- 677 out of 679 facilities have at least one nurse competent
- 241 facility managers have been trained, with 10 at advanced (analytics) level. 85% agree or strongly agree they know how to use the software and reports to review interRAI activity in their facility
- 25 Skills Booster sessions held
- 46 facility site visits carried out
- 77 Quality Reviews completed

New interRAI website is now live

The brand new interRAI New Zealand website is now live and you can check it out by going to www.interrai.co.nz – the web address has not changed.



The new site has lots of information for all those interested in interRAI, much greater functionality, a great amount of informative and helpful material that showcases and celebrates how far we have come in our interRAI New Zealand journey.

The site is a key resource for all interRAI users but is also informative for those who just want to know what interRAI is all about. The more people understand interRAI concepts, what it can do and how to use it, the more it can help to improve assessment, care and outcomes.

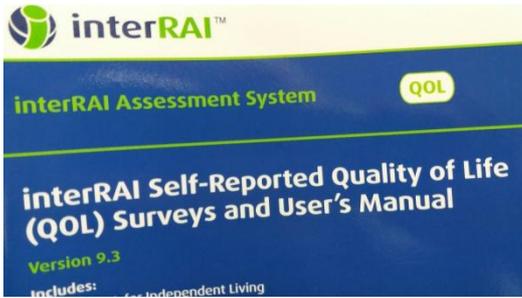
If you are an interRAI assessor, you can find a range of helpful information to aid you in your work and answers to many common questions. You now have [webpages dedicated to assessors](#) and the work they do. Assessors will also find tips and support for [maintaining competency and using AIS](#) and [other useful resources](#). Similarly, [DHB, NASC and Facility Managers](#) are able to find out more about particular issues or questions they may have.

Among the wealth of information available, you can also [register your interest in the range of interRAI training sessions](#) being held around the country. To do this, simply go to the [Book Training](#) page, filter the options by the location and type of training you are interested in, click on the session you want, then fill out the online form. interRAI Services will then get in touch with you about your training requirements and the availability of places.

Other information on the new website includes direct links to the log-in pages for interRAI software (Momentum), AIS and Connex (look at the very top of every page), other [Data and Reporting information, reports and publications](#), links to other [useful websites and resources](#), and details about the [interRAI New Zealand Governance Board](#) activities, decisions and meeting minutes.

If you have any trouble finding what you are looking for, have a specific query or comment, you can also use the online [Help & Contact](#) tool to send us a message and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

We encourage you to visit the site and have a look around – we hope you like it as much as we do and find it a great resource!



Release of interRAI Self-Reported Quality of Life Surveys Tool

As one of the final stages of testing prior to publication, interRAI International frequently ask their members to test an instrument in different countries and New Zealand was asked to do just that for the interRAI Self-Report Quality of Life Survey.

During the summer of 2014/2015 Karis Knight, a Masters student of Speech Science in the school of Speech Psychology at Auckland University completed a summer research project, which explored how the instrument functioned across a New Zealand population of aged residential care residents.

The result was the interRAI Self-Report Quality of Life Survey for Long Term Care Facilities with an accompanying Home and Community Care version. The survey comprises 48 items covering 10 domains that aim to quantify the subjective life experience of residents in aged care facilities.

The survey is designed to be administered as a private interview, although participants may have a family member or support person present.

CHT Healthcare Trust in Auckland agreed to be the test site and generously arranged for Karis to access 46 resident volunteers, with a mean age of 86, for the study.

Selection criteria was: (a) currently receiving rest home level of care; (b) Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS) score of four or less according to their most recent results on the interRAI Long Term Care Facilities Assessment System; (c) not expected to be assessed for transfer to a dementia care unit within the next two months; and (d) speaks English well enough to understand and respond to items.

Results of the study showed significant differences between the top four highest rating domains (Respect, Privacy, Safety and Responsive Staff) and the top four lowest rating domains (Food, Staff-Resident Bonding, Activities and Personal Relationships).

The Respect domain, which measures the extent to which staff treat residents with dignity, are attentive and respect resident opinion, generated the highest mean response score across domains.

'The researcher felt this signals that despite any facility-level constraints that may be beyond the control of individual staff members, it may still be possible to provide a person-centered service that supports quality of life.'

The broad scope of participants who took part in this study demonstrates that the survey is useful for New Zealand and accessible across a significant proportion of the older population.

The results of the study along with feedback about the New Zealand experience were forwarded to the instrument developers. The assessment is now published and copies may be purchased from the interRAI international website www.interrai.org

Karis was supervised by Dr Brigette Meehan (TAS) and Prof Suzanne Purdy (University of Auckland) and the study was approved by The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee (UAHPEC).

Pictured from left:

Dr Nigel Millar, interRAI Fellow, Chief Medical Officer Canterbury District Health Board;
Max Robins, Chief Executive of CHT;
Dr Brigette Meehan, interRAI Fellow, and National interRAI Services Manager.
Dr Millar and Mr Robins are members of the interRAI NZ Governance Board.



Software update

Work is progressing well for this years software upgrade due in late October. The dates for the upgrade remain as Friday evening 21 October 2016 for those organisations in the Central and Midland DHB areas, and Friday evening 28 October 2016 for those organisations in the Southern and Northern region DHB areas. The latest update can be found on the [interRAI website](#) .

This notice does refer to some weekly technical conference calls starting on 23 August 2016 these are related to a 'check in check out' module. **Please note this does not apply to residential care facilities.**

Productivity Commission Report

The Commission has released a report about Effective Social Services that you might find interesting. You can read the report on the Commission website

Developing interRAI Services

We welcome Jacqueline Joseph to the position of Team Leader North in the Education and Support team.

Jacqueline comes from a leadership position in NASC at Waitemata DHB and knows interRAI assessment and DHB-land very well.

Jacqueline is a Social Worker who also has a clinical background as an Occupational Therapist.

Over the next few months interRAI Lead Practitioners (educators) from DHBs will be integrated with TAS interRAI Educators to create one interRAI education and support team across the sector.

Jacqueline will be making a significant contribution to this important piece of work for TAS.

Meanwhile, two new Educators are joining the Education and Support team to focus on training interRAI assessors in aged residential care.

Shona Wilson, who has worked as an interRAI Educator in previous roles in aged care, will be initially based in Christchurch.

Leanne Whitteker, who has been working with interRAI at Canterbury DHB, will shortly join Shona in the Christchurch office.

The fixed term roles will concentrate their time on reducing the waiting list for interRAI assessment training for registered nurses in aged care facilities.

interRAI NZ Governance Board

'interRAI NZ – Future Direction'

The interRAI NZ Governance Board met on 9 August and discussed 'interRAI NZ - Future Direction', a three-year rolling strategic plan based on the five strategic themes of the refreshed New Zealand Health Strategy.

The plan spells out the focus for delivering interRAI Services and developing interRAI over time in the New Zealand context.

The Board has approved the plan, which has now been published on the [interRAI NZ website](#).

Casemix

At their recent meeting, the interRAI NZ Governance Board had a discussion about interRAI and its relationship to casemix systems in New Zealand.

The Board has now agreed it's position on casemix and this has been published on the [interRAI NZ website](#).

Other Board discussions

An update was provided to the Board on progress with ACC around the potential introduction of a new interRAI assessment tool for post acute rehabilitation.

The Board was also interested in the current Ministry of Health consultation on The Health of Older People Strategy, which you can comment on now.

An update was provided around the planned interRAI software enhancements and discussion held about the renewal of the national interRAI software contract later in the year.

The Board also considered the Quarter four interRAI Services Operational Report.

Minutes of the latest Board meeting are now on the [interRAI website](#).

Consultation on Health of Older People Strategy

The Ministry of Health has released a draft Health of Older People Strategy for public consultation.

The strategy aims to ensure that 'we have a sustainable health and disability support system that adds life to years, not just years to life'.

It sets out a direction for people-centred health and social services, with policies, funding, planning and service delivery to:

- prioritise healthy ageing and resilience throughout people's older years
- enable good acute care, effective rehabilitation, recovery and restoration from acute events
- ensure people can live well with long-term conditions
- better support people with high and complex needs
- provide end of life care that respects personal, cultural and spiritual needs.

The draft strategy can be viewed on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

Also on the website are details and a registration form for five consultation workshops planned for August, which you are welcome to attend.

Interesting reading

A four-minute animation has been developed demonstrating the power of interRAI data sharing across disciplines and settings.

Developed by Hein van Hout, an Associate Professor at VU University in the Netherlands the video is used as an introduction to increase understanding and raise interest in the approach.

Just note that the Netherlands use a function called RUGs so the software calculates treatment minutes, we don't use that capacity in NZ.

<https://vimeo.com/172090197>

You may also be interested in a brief, but interesting read about [mental health at all ages published by the London Community Foundation](#).

Keeping you informed

If you have any comments or would like to contribute to this newsletter, or you would like to unsubscribe, please email: interrai@dhbsharingservices.health.nz