



interRAI Informer

Your update on interRAI in New Zealand

Issue 1: April 2016

Welcome to the first of our regular news updates for the health care sector about interRAI in New Zealand. Ours is the first country in the world to introduce interRAI assessments nationwide for aged care, which gives us an excellent opportunity to gather and share information in one 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

What's been achieved so far

From 1 July 2015, it became mandatory for Aged Residential Care (ARC) facilities to use the interRAI Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF) assessment tool for assessing the care and support needs of their residents.

So far, TAS has trained over 3210 nurses to use the tool including those who were trained during the implementation project. All 680 aged residential care facilities have had at least one nurse trained and we continue to train over 50 each month.

Alongside the nurse assessors, we have also trained almost 390 facility managers in the use of the integrated management report suite and software tools. Enabling them to monitor and review interRAI activity and produce resident and operational summary reports to help embed the interRAI LTCF in their facility.

The success of implementing the assessment tools in both ARC and DHBs led the Minister of Health, the Ministry of Health and TAS to start building on what has been achieved and work towards integrating Education and Support for interRAI across ARC and DHBs.

Governance Board and General Manager appointed

In recognition of the importance of interRAI in the New Zealand health and aged care sectors, the Director General of Health has appointed an 11-member interRAI New Zealand Governance Board to oversee the delivery of interRAI Services. The Board has now met four times and the Terms of Reference, along with information about each Board member and the minutes of previous meetings, can be found on the interRAI website:

www.interrai.co.nz

Michele McCreddie, General Manager, interRAI Services, oversees the business unit within TAS responsible for delivering national interRAI Services she started in her role in November 2015.

Michele is now out and about meeting a range of interRAI stakeholders and will continue to work closely with key sector colleagues as interRAI Services develop over time.

Michele can be contacted at

michele_mccreadie@centraltas.co.nz

interRAI data in action

Data Analysis and Reporting Centre

The new National Data Analysis and Reporting Centre in TAS is now up and running, providing the opportunity for the first time to gather national-level interRAI data in one place. The Centre has now begun producing reports to inform planning and service delivery in DHBs and Aged Care.

The first national interRAI Data Analysis Annual Report for the 2014/15 year has been developed and is about to be published. This includes some interesting and detailed data gathered from interRAI assessments across New Zealand.

You will shortly be able to read this on the interRAI website: www.interrai.co.nz

TAS would welcome the opportunity to present to interested groups about the information available and how this might assist in the development of services for older people. If you are interested please let us know at interRAI@dhbss.health.nz

HOPSLA priority areas identified

We have attached some interesting research for you led by the South Island Alliance using interRAI data. A group of summer research students were given permission to access the interRAI Homecare 9.1 data from Sept 2012 to June 2015, which included about 47,000 consented assessments. The data was linked with health outcome data from the National Minimum Data Set (including hospital admissions, residential care and mortality data).

The purpose of the research was to analyse the data collected from the South Island DHBs and produce clinically relevant information on Health of Older Persons Service Level Alliance (HOPSLA) priority areas. This information would be useful for South Island Health Service Planning.

TAS received permission from the South Island Alliance, the University of Canterbury and the University of Otago to provide you with a copy of the report.

The interRAI data for these studies was sourced from the National interRAI Software Service and we must also acknowledge the contribution from the Ministry of Health.

Survey of training needs

All ARCs should have received an invitation and reminders to complete a survey to indicate the LTCF assessment training required for your nurses from July to December this year. So far we have received a response from about half of all facilities, and we have extended the timeframe so please let us know your needs – it will only take a few minutes.

If you have not received the invitation or no longer have it, please email us as soon as possible: interRAI@dhbss.health.nz so we can resend it to you.

The information you provide will help us determine priorities and schedule our training for the future.

A follow-up survey will be sent out later in the year to inform planning for 2017.

Common questions fact sheets

We have put together some fact sheets to help answer some of the commonly asked questions we receive and to clarify some processes for people. Attached to this newsletter are three for you to use. We encourage you to take a few moments to read through these and feel free to distribute to others in your teams. We will also be putting these and other fact sheets on our website.

interRAI New Zealand online

TAS has begun development of a new interRAI website, which will be more user friendly, have greater functionality and provide more helpful information for the whole sector.

We plan to launch the new site, which will be at the same web address but have updated content, in a couple of months. So watch this space.

interRAI Education and Support Services

TAS's role

The TAS Education and Support team ensures assessors complete training and undertake a number of assessments to be considered competent to use the interRAI tools. TAS also provides other education services, such as Designated Audit Agency (DAA) training, Skills Booster Training for already competent nurses and training for Facility Managers and Administrators.

Oversight of interRAI Education and Support Service activity and ensuring national quality, standards and consistency, is a priority for TAS in its role as the national provider of interRAI Services in New Zealand.

An integrated interRAI education and support service

As the national service provider, TAS has been commissioned to lead all education and support services in one nationally driven, locally delivered programme. To create a nationally integrated Education and Support Service for the future, we are undertaking consultation with DHBs on a proposed model for how this might work. The aim of an integrated service is to maximise flexibility and reduce duplication of effort over time, create consistency in training and integrate operational requirements to support interRAI across both the ARC and home and community settings.

There has been a significant response to the proposed model, which we are considering before a final decision is made.

Training in ARCs

There has been an exceptional demand for initial training from new nurses being employed and from facilities that have embraced interRAI assessments and want more nurses trained. We are managing this through a prioritisation process agreed with the New Zealand Aged Care Association.

Facilities with no nurses trained to use the interRAI assessment are top priority, followed closely by smaller facilities which are vulnerable due to the small number of nurses employed. The priority criteria are outlined on our website: www.interrai.co.nz

We have also developed special 'intensive' training, which can see nurses trained to full competency over two weeks. These have proved popular and mean facilities can plan cover for absence and their trained nurse can start assessing residents sooner. Further training sessions will open in May 2016.

If you find yourself in a vulnerable position, please contact the Education and Support team at TAS so we can prioritise the training of new staff.

News from our sector colleagues

Gerontology Conference 2016

The 2016 Conference of the New Zealand Association of Gerontology will be held in Wellington in September.

This year, the theme is "Making Active Ageing a Reality" and the conference will be held from 15 – 17 September 2016 at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor in Wellington.

See the attached flyer for more information.

Keeping you informed

If you have comments on items in this newsletter, or if there are topics you think should be included, let us know. We want to make sure you get the information you need to keep you up to date with what's going on.

Email: interRAI@dhbss.health.nz