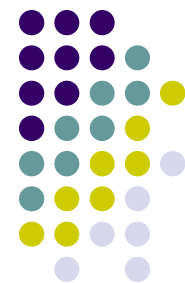


# Allied Health Assistants (AHAs)

Anna Joy

Bernice Maher

# Allied Health Assistant at SHDH



- AHA's support Physio and OT departments
- Assist in the delivery of clinical and non clinical services
- Provide therapy interventions
- Program delivery
- Service Delivery
- Departmental maintenance

# Allied Health Assistant at SHDH



- Unqualified AHA
  - Division 2 qualified nurse
- Qualified AHA
  - Mayfield Certificate Course
  - TAFE training in allied health assistant
  - Australian Physio Association

# Skills Required by AHA



- Excellent and compassionate client rapport
- Excels in communication, time management, written and verbal skills
- Ability to work in the team environment
- Adapts to change easily
  - Service delivery
  - Senior Staff
- Respect for younger Health Professionals and their skills

# Opportunities for training



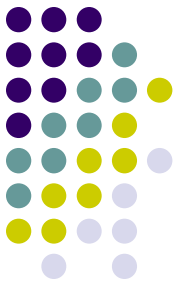
- External
  - Home And Community Care (HACC) training workshops
  - Arthritis Foundation Courses
    - Chair based exercises
    - Water Exercises
    - Tai Chi
    - Better Health Self Management
- Internal
  - On the job training
  - Shadowing Health Professional
  - Education / in-services

# AHA Role



- Timetabled rostered duties
- 7 hour days
  - OT 5 days a week
  - PT 3 days a week
- Maintaining department
  - Cleaning
  - Maintaining equipment
  - Hire and Loan
  - Stock ordering

# AHA Role



- Client follow up
  - Equipment returns
- Assist in facilitating groups
  - Pre-prepared presentations
  - Assisting in exercise / mobility
- Implement set programs / equipment issue
  - Assessments and recommendations made by health professional
  - Under direction of Health Professional

# Occupational Therapy



- Hand Therapy
- Home delivery of Equipment
- Out-reach home assessments with Occupational Therapist
- Relaxation sessions
- Activities of daily living retraining
- Invoicing
- Maintain splinting equipment / resources

# Physiotherapy



- Assist with client assessments (x 2 Required)
- Assist hydrotherapy clients
- Implement physiotherapy programs to aged care residents
- Group facilitation
- Set up treatment environments
- Equipment / Hire and Loan

# Exercise Therapist



- Human Movement / Exercise Physiology Graduate
- New to department 2008
- Independent with client management
- Conducts exercise programs
  - Pulmonary / Cardiac Rehab
  - Exercise Groups / Rehab Exercise
  - Hydrotherapy

# Exercise Therapist



- Transitional Care Program client assessment and programs
- Expands on Allied Health Assistants
- Allows increased physio contact hours for direct client care
- Allows clients to have more direct contact hours with therapist reducing reliance on Home Exercise Programs (HEP)

# Recruitment



- High number of applicants
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Hours of work attractive
  - Not shift work (Division 2 Nurses)
  - Flexible (suits applicants with school aged children)

# Questions?

