

Good work at PSS shared with global audience



PSS Nurse Practitioner Carla Arkless presenting at the Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Care Conference in Munich

PSS Nurse Practitioner Carla Arkless is sharing the good work being done within the organisation with an international audience.

Advanced Care Planning for dementia patients might be common practice within PSS, but it's a concept the rest of the world is still catching up on.

PSS Nurse Practitioner Carla Arkless attended the Advanced Care Planning (ACP) and End of Life Care Conference in Munich in September and presented on the work

being done at PSS, specifically within the dementia unit.

"New Zealand is one of the world leaders around implementation and training for ACP, and a lot of places are looking at what we are doing," she said.

"I spoke about the work we are doing at PSS within the dementia unit because it's so

important with regards to ACP. It has really changed the care we are able to provide."

"We talk with the families and the resident, if we are able, about what is important to them and what they want us to achieve in terms of care and treatment. As and when the resident's condition deteriorates, we know what the priorities are, nurses are more prepared and because we've planned, far fewer residents require transfers to hospital."

"It's making palliative care a normal part of practice."

Carla's presentation was well received, with a panel of five speakers answering a number of questions at its conclusion and generating interesting conversation.

The international conference is held annually; predominantly for clinicians, and Carla said there were many learnings from it.

"The New Zealand team came away with a real satisfaction that we are doing ACP well, we are doing a good job," she said.

Outside of her work with PSS, Carla is one of two Level Four trainers in the country for ACP training programmes. She joined a delegation of 14 New Zealand representatives at the conference.

Staff Survey

Results of the recent staff survey have given Presbyterian Support Southland Management valuable insights, as they look to build on what is working well and identify areas for improvement.

The Your Voice Matters biennial survey has highlighted plenty of achievements and will be a valuable tool for Management as the organisation looks to ensure it is doing the best possible job for clients, residents, volunteers and staff.

Seasons Greetings

*To all our supporters and staff
thank you for all your support
during 2015.*

*We wish you and your family a joyful
and safe festive season.*

Getting to know...

Amy Kelly

Role with PSS:

Team Leader Housekeeping at Peacehaven

Started in:

Vickery Court as Housekeeper in 2005

Give us a quick overview of your role:

Leading a team of six staff, that are responsible for cleaning the facility and some of the cottages and townhouses. This involves ensuring a high standard of hygiene is maintained and work is completed as per policy, using the correct tools, equipment and chemicals. I am also a member of the H&S and the Infection Control Committee.

What's the number one thing you love most about your job?

The regular contact with the residents, getting to know them and their family, and knowing that we have set a very high standard of cleanliness in the facility.

I love the H&S and Infection Control Committee involvement and the learnings that go with this role.

What do you enjoy outside of work?

I keep fit, I love going out on my motorbike seeing the country. I also love spending time with Ringo my cat. He is a 'Starr'.

What's the one thing, you can't live without?

Potato crisps and dip. Love it!

What's your favourite quote or saying?

Live well, laugh often and love much.

Extra Mile Award acknowledges outstanding service

After 18 years of dedication and commitment to Presbyterian Support Southland, retiring Trustee Merle O'Donnell has been presented with an Extra Mile Award.



Former PSS Trustee Merle O'Donnell has been presented with an Extra Mile Award

When it comes to extra miles, Merle O'Donnell has put in plenty for PSS over the years, so the Extra Mile Award – presented to her at PSS's Annual General Meeting – proved a fitting tribute to a lady who gave so much to the organisation.

After joining the Trust in 1997, Merle witnessed numerous changes and developments within the organisation, including redevelopments at Resthaven and Peacehaven Villages, and the Wyndham community taking over the operation of the PSS Charter; all of which she was integrally involved with.

An always active Trustee, Merle was Deputy Chair for six years and, until recently, chaired the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

PSS Chairman Tim Loan presented her with the Extra Mile Award and paid tribute to “an impressive and inspirational lady, with an awesome sense of humour.”

“Merle is a people's person and brought reality into situations of balancing social need as well against the ability to fund what we were doing,” he said.

“Her kindness and thoughtfulness are known and have impacted many. We are sad to see Merle step down from the Trust, but I want to sincerely thank her for her amazing contribution to this organisation over a very long period of time”.

Merle graciously accepted the award, acknowledging the work PSS does, and said she had enjoyed her time with the organisation.

Long Service Recognised

Every year Presbyterian Support Southland acknowledges staff who have given years of service to the organisation, through the Long Service Awards. This year 36 staff have been recognised, and we thank each and every one for their continued passion for and dedication to the work that they do.

30 Years

Barbara Livingstone (Resthaven)

25 Years

Lyn Valoajack (Vickery Court)

20 Years

Daphne Stronach (Walmsley House), Janice Turner (Vickery Court), Carolyn Evans (Vickery Court), Peter Wards (Central Office), Dorothea Hawkins (Peacehaven)

10 Years

Felicidad Ricketts (Resthaven), Robyn Campbell (Peacehaven), Patricia Officer (Resthaven), Yvonne Luns (Vickery Court), Scott Morrissey (Resthaven), Julie Cooper (Iona, Peacehaven), Amelia Rarere (Resthaven), Amy Kelly (Peacehaven)

Five Years

Raymond Ruffell (Peacehaven), Suliana More (Family Works), Catherine Nyambura (Resthaven), Tracey Petersen (Vickery Court), Lyn Donald (Family Works), Coleen Quirk (Resthaven), Carla Arkless (Central Office), Trudie De Garnham (Peacehaven), Hafswa Hemed (Iona, Peacehaven), Marilyn Proctor (Resthaven), Christine Gilkison (Family Works), Ali Mathers (Peacehaven), Isabel Blyth (Peacehaven), Lynette Thomas (Peacehaven), Katrina Bowes (Iona, Peacehaven), Maria Radu (Resthaven), Wendy Butler (Peacehaven), Anne Mauheni (Vickery Court), Karen Talbot (Iona, Peacehaven), Sandra Wilson (Resthaven), Maria Angeles (Iona, Peacehaven)

**Note – the above information indicates where the staff member currently works.*

Staff Achievements and Happenings

Family Works and Central Office

Lisa Ryan has completed her Social Work Degree and has achieved provisional social work registration.

Omea Fairweather recently got married becoming Mrs Omea Crombie-McCormack on October 2.

Kristin Lobb achieved full membership to ANZASW.

Kelli McGowan and Juliet Russell have completed the HINZ, HR Foundations Course.

Services for Older People

Congratulations to all staff who have completed a qualification this year, including Lisa Sheat (EN, Vickery Court), Diana Mufambirwi (RN, Peacehaven) and Julie Worner (RN, Peacehaven).

Golda Ceniza has achieved Level 2 as an Advance Care Planning Practitioner.

Sara Corbin is a new graduate as a Registered Nurse.

Abbie Long (Bachelor of Nursing) won the Year 3 Nursing SIT Award and has secured a position in the New Graduate Nurse Programme and employment in 2016 (sadly not with us).

Congratulations to Melissa Geekie on the birth of her baby boy Hunter.

We also have many staff working on Careerforce qualifications as well as some fabulous work being done using care training online - Vickery Court is leading the way, having completed 113 to date.