



The Australian Stroke Coalition (ASC) has progressed since its inception in July 2008. All five working groups have now been established and are progressing with their agreed deliverables within current resource constraints.

Recently, the ASC held a teleconference to provide updates on each working group and to discuss intellectual property and funding opportunities. An IP discussion paper was sent out to the groups for comment. The paper will now be modified to include principles such as the purpose of the ASC is to improve outcomes for stroke. Procedures will also be drafted to give direction to future IP discussions (e.g. IP should be considered for all new projects).

In relation to funding, letters were sent to various pharmaceutical companies seeking funding to support the ASC operations and projects. Other avenues such as philanthropic organisations and ASC member contacts are also being explored. Any contacts that may assist with funding for projects are welcome.

Long Term Recovery and Support

(Chaired by Dr Erin Lalor)

This newly established group aims to ensure that all patients experience a well coordinated and supported discharge and that stroke survivors have access to appropriate care which meets their needs.

The group have revised their goals and set five actions to achieve these goals. These have been accepted by the full ASC. The priority for this group over the next 12 months is to develop a Care Plan Template, support the NSF pilot implementation of StokeConnect and develop a resource that brings together best practices to develop and promote all models of peer support.

At a local level, a promotional strategy will be developed to inform survivors and carers about local support and services. Another task will be to support the NSF to redevelop the stroke survivor kit to ensure information suits survivors at all stages of recovery.

Response to Acute Event

(Chaired by Bernard Yan, temporary replacement for Dr Romesh Markus)

The [NICS ED Care Bundle](#) has been endorsed and implementation will commence in 2010. This working group will link in with NICS during this process. Progression has been made with the Thrombolysis Protocol Project. A questionnaire to collect and collate already established protocols will cover areas relating to pre-arrival notification, initial assessment, triaging, imaging and decision making by ED and stroke services. Each site will be asked if they are willing to share their current protocols and structure. Once the questionnaire is complete, it will be circulated to the full ASC. The questionnaire will be piloted in five sites in NSW during January.

This group has also been involved in collecting '000' data to determine whether there is any correlation with the FAST awareness campaign. The aim is to gather and compare data from each state. Another area of discussion has been the Telestroke system, including ways this will improve equitable access to thrombolysis. This area requires further discussions from the group and may be a base for future deliverables.

Workforce, Training and Professional Development

(Chaired by Dr Andrew Lee)

This group will be working on the creation of a National Education Stroke-Specific Framework as an overarching guide for stroke curriculum development. A smaller group has been formed to adapt the UK Educational Framework and will present a draft document at the next ASC face-to-face meeting.

Other activities of the group will involve developing an undergraduate stroke package for national dissemination to tertiary educators and reviewing staff benchmarks and disciplines.

An e-learning tool is being developed by the Victorian Stroke Care Education group. The SSA has established a peer review process for developing content. The initial content will be reviewed by February next year.



Access to Stroke Units

(Chaired by Dr Andrew Granger)

This group aims to improve access to and quality of services offered within stroke units. This involves gathering information on stroke units, considering the recent acute audit results, and establishing priorities for reviewing the availability, access, definitions and standards of stroke unit care.

A discussion paper outlining a strategy to increase the number of and access to stroke units was circulated to the group in October. National Acute Audit data is currently being analysed to determine the number of patients admitted to a stroke unit; the percentage of patients admitted to a stroke unit within 24 hours; and the percentage admitted on the same day and next day.

Data from the Organisational Audit will be combined with results from the recent Clinical Audit Report to determine if there are any trends associated with high versus low access stroke units.

A draft questionnaire has been created by the group and will be piloted in five higher access stroke units and five lower access stroke units from NSW selected from the Audit Data. The next step will be to extend this to other states.

Up Coming Events

- ◆ The ASC face-to-face meeting scheduled for 17th February has been **postponed**.
- ◆ COAG Conference 17 - 18 February, Sydney.
- ◆ SMART STROKES Conference 5 - 6 August 2010. Calls for abstracts close on 5 February 2010

Working Group Meetings

All scheduled for 2pm AEDST

- ◆ Access to SU, 20 Jan
- ◆ Response to Acute Event, 21 Jan
- ◆ Rehabilitation, 28 Jan
- ◆ Workforce, Training and Professional Development, 2nd Feb
- ◆ Long Term Recovery and Support, 3 Feb

Rehabilitation

(Chaired by Dr Susan Hillier)

A project plan focussing on assessment of rehabilitation needs in the acute setting has been approved. The project looks at current practice evidence for various approaches and it aims to recommend a process that can be used in any setting within Australia. It will also look to develop a tool to assist with the application of the agreed process.

A questionnaire to establish current and best practice has been drafted by the group and is being piloted in South Australia prior to being disseminated nationally early in 2010. The working group will focus on this project over the next six months.

2009 Stroke Champions Awards

The winners of the 2009 [Stroke Champion Awards](#) were recently announced. These awards are dedicated to recognising the tireless efforts of those that work to meet the needs of people who have had a stroke. Congratulations to Jenny Burrows and Merv McAllister; the winners of the 'Stroke Care Champion' Award and to Brenda Booth, the winner of the 'Improving Life after Stroke' Award.

Stroke Clinical Guideline Review

A link to the Clinical Guidelines will be sent to ASC members for comment in the New Year as part of the public consultation process

World Stroke Day, 29 October 2010

To find out more and take part in the online petition, please click on the [link](#).

Useful Links

- [Australian Stroke Coalition](#)
- [Stroke Society of Australasia](#)
- [National Stroke Foundation](#)
- [Stroke Champions Awards](#)
- [NICS ED Care Bundle](#)

