Background
The LCI operates a mobile screening unit across Western Australia providing free skin screening. The LCI skin screening service is the only routine population based, free screening service in Australia with the exception of planned health promotion campaigns by various organisations such as the Cancer Council of Australia. This service is supported through Lions International, public donations and the voluntary services of health professionals who are trained in skin screening.

As a pilot, this project successfully achieved its objectives:

Project Activities:
Workshops were conducted for up-skilling of nurses performing skin cancer screening, with the support of Flinders University of South Australia including:
• the compilation of existing information from Lions Cancer Institute (LCI) and Lifestream Health Care,
• the development of study plans and an online short course package for examination by Board of Studies, and
• building the online teaching program using Flinders Online Virtual delivery.

• A research project was conducted entitled “A Nurse Led Skin Cancer Screening Program - Contributing to Health Reform”. This project ran for 18 months and collected data which examined the impact that the LCI project was having on health care through its population based skin screening service, whilst examining ways to expand the operation across other states, particularly in rural and remote communities.
• Part of the research project was to develop a CPD program (RHCE2 pilot) which could be studied online and was open to health professionals looking to either enhance existing knowledge of skin screening, or learn to undertake skin screening.
• The online component was managed by Flinders University and the workshops were managed and run by Lions Cancer Institute, see http://www.flinders.edu.au/nursing/professional-development/courses/skin-cancer-screening-assessment-and-identification-of-skin-lesions.cfm.

Project performance

Examples of the achievements of this LCI screening project in early detection of skin cancers.

• Data has included two of the three states under examination; Western Australia (WA) and South Australia (SA), with the majority of screenings occurring in WA. SA and Northern Territory (NT) have more scheduled screenings over the next 12 months, whilst NZ is in the scoping stage of the project.
• Data to date (November 2013) includes 3,127 screenings out of a total population of 144,852 based on the most recent 2006 population census figures, giving an indicative total of 2.2% of the population screened.
• The Nurse Practitioner candidate, who is part of the research team, has screened 19.1% of all screenings. Skin lesion findings are consistent with LCI figures collected over the last 20 years and are tracking at an average of 18.2% of potential life threatening lesions detected.

Contact: Dr Clare Harvey, Adjunct Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery Flinders University SA
Chris Lowings, Director Lifestream Health SA

Phone: (08) 8201 3409
Email: charvey@eit.ac.nz (8th May 2013)
lifestream@internode.on.net