



Office of Hon Jo Goodhew

MP for Rangitata

Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector

Minister for Senior Citizens

Minister of Women's Affairs

Associate Minister of Health

Associate Minister for Primary Industries

Victoria Brown
Executive Committee
Care Association New Zealand
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19 MAY 2014

Dear Victoria

Medication management in aged residential care

Please find enclosed a copy of the report '*Ministry of Health Aged Residential Care Certification Data Comparison of Medication Issues: 2009 and 2012*' prepared by Dr Michal Boyd, Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland School of Nursing and Freemasons' Department of Geriatric Medicine.

The report compares results across six medication management audit categories for over 500 Aged Residential Care facilities between 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010 and 1 January – 31 December 2012. Specifically, the report looks at the number of 'partial attainments' (PAs) and the reasons why the auditors found them to be partially attained. A PA suggests that while the standard had been met at a minimum level, further work was required to achieve full attainment. Therefore, a decrease in partially attained results would suggest an improvement in performance against each category.

Encouragingly, the report findings suggest an improvement in the areas of policies and procedures and staff competency through fewer identified PAs. Overall, however, the report found evidence of significantly more PAs for medication management in the 2012 sample than the 2009/10 sample.

I am advised that this may in part be due to improvements in auditor training and recognition of medication issues, coinciding with the introduction of the *Medicines Care Guidelines for Residential Aged Care (June 2011)*. But, it does also highlight that there may be opportunities for improvement in medication management within the aged residential care sector.

In sharing this report with you, I encourage you to consider the findings in partnership with each of your facilities, managers and clinical leaders. I have also asked the Ministry of Health to engage with the aged care sector, including District Health Boards, primary care, and providers to discuss the report and how it might be used to inform improvements in quality and safety of aged care services.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Jo Goodhew
Associate Minister of Health