



- Supportive Care Project Report to Advisory Group-

Project Title: The development of a multidimensional strategy to incorporate sexuality and body image as an essential dimension of cancer care at the Women's Hospital.		Date of report : January 22 nd 2010	
Organisation &/or Tumour Group: Royal Women's Hospital / Gynaecological-Breast Oncology Services		Start Date: 28 th April 2009	
Project Manager: Elizabeth Williams – RN Monique Baldacchino - RN		Completion date: Scheduled – end of April (Subject to review)	
Milestone	Progress	Early wins/ Learnings	Comments
Data Analysis of Staff surveys	Analysis of data is progressing	At this early stage it is already clear that on-going education for staff in the area of sexuality is both needed & wanted.	Both project managers have been distracted by personal matters & the project is somewhat behind schedule. Both project managers have planned extra time allocations during February and March, and are confident that the project timing can be recovered. A potential request for additional time will be kept under review.
Patient Surveys	100 patients were sent surveys with the option of a phone interview or returning their survey by mail. To date 30 surveys have been received.	As with the staff responses, patient surveys also show that very little (if any) discussion or education concerning sexuality is occurring during the cancer journey. Most patients have indicated their need for these discussions.	
Staff Education	2 communication workshops were delivered to 16 staff in October 2010. Another 2 workshops are planned for mid-year. Various current articles & research papers are being collected to form a folder for staff information.	Most nursing staff are positive about this initiative & willing to attend.	As patient care is of uppermost importance, it is frequently difficult for staff to attend even for a short time. Relevant presenters are also busy within their own practice often complicating their availability.

Staff Education (cont'd.)	Experts in the field of gynae/breast oncology & sexuality are being sought to provide short presentations Staff following afternoon hand-over time. The annual presentation discussing the inclusion of sexuality education to patients in their care will be addressed to new nursing staff & graduates on March 22 nd by Liz Williams.		
Next actions: The next steps are described in 'Staff Education' above.			
Other Comments: N/A			

If you have any queries about the project please contact the Project Managers Liz Williams or Monique Baldacchino on 0419 147 870 or 0419 501 386.