



## LONG TERM CARE ACTION PLAN

More than 8,600 persons or 13% of Bermuda's population are seniors (aged 65 and over) and there are more than 3,000 persons with a disability in Bermuda. The Bermuda Health Strategy 2014–2019, which is the Ministry's vision document for our health system, has identified the need to

coordinate long term care for seniors and persons with disabilities in Goal 7. The first step in delivery on this goal is the development of a one-year Long Term Care Action Plan which provides key objectives, deadlines and identifies the agencies responsible for delivery. There are five specific areas of action in the plan: quality; education and workforce

## Health Workforce Development

The Ministry of Health and Seniors is developing a Bermuda Healthcare Workforce Strategy that will provide an overview of the current landscape of the Island's health professionals and project needs of the future. To assist, two Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) representatives visited in November to provide technical assistance towards this goal. The Healthcare Workforce

Strategy is an initiative that arose from priorities of the Bermuda Health Strategy and the Health Action Plan 2014–2019. These documents provide the Ministry of Health and Seniors' vision for reform of the Island's health system. The Workforce Strategy meets the objective of Priority area 11 of the Health Action Plan, which is to: "develop guidance document for medical workforce planning that would meet the future needs of the population." The expected results of

development; policy and regulation; financing and communication; and advocacy/communication. To finalize and launch the action plan, the Ministry met with stakeholders across the Island on 3rd December to receive feedback on the draft action plan. The LTC Action Plan is on the Ministry's web site for public comment by 31st December 2016. The ultimate goal of all stakeholders is to develop a long term care system that provides a continuum of care focused on supporting seniors and persons with disabilities in the right setting and at the right time to ensure quality of life and financial sustainability. The Long Term Care Action Plan can be found in its entirety on our [website](#).

this work are to identify challenges and opportunities for the Bermuda workforce, share a vision of the future workforce, and take stock of the current situation. The ultimate goal is to ensure the health system has the professionals required to respond to the health needs of the population. For more information about the Bermuda Health Strategy and the Health Action plan visit our [website](#).

## NEW LEGISLATION

The Quarantine Act 2016 was tabled in the House of Assembly on 21st November 2016. The Act proposes to replace the Quarantine Act 1946 and introduces a modernized security framework for the Island's ports, airport and travelers. The Act will also enhance surveillance and reporting of communicable diseases as per International Health Regulations 2005.

## COVER YOUR COUGH

The Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit has received increasing reports of fever and respiratory symptoms, including flu and flu-like illnesses. The flu can be very serious for young children and seniors. To protect yourself and your child, get your flu shot, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, stay away from persons who are ill, and wash your hands.

## WELCOME TO MOHS

Welcome to the Ministry of Health and Seniors' inaugural and quarterly Newsletter. We hope this will become a place to provide updates on our programmes, acknowledge developments and offer a glance into the behind-the-scenes work that is carried-on every day by our team. There is more information and work done by our team than could be contained in our quarterly newsletter so this is meant to be a very brief snapshot to keep you in the know of new and upcoming developments. For current information visit our website, which we are working on to increase accessibility. We welcome feedback on the newsletter and look forward to continued public outreach.



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