

**Update on Palliative Care Initiatives/Projects
for Palliative Care Consortia and Integrated Cancer Services.**

Date: April 2007

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group (PCIAG)	The next meeting of the PCIAG is planned for 18 May 2007.
VicPCRS data reference group	<p>The roll out of the new dataset for community palliative care services is continuing. In the last month, we have met with some software providers and have more meetings in the coming days. Software providers have not be alarmed at the size of the changes involved. On 27 April 2007 the DHS is conducting a three quarter day workshop (9am to 2pm) on the changes to the dataset and the process for recording information and sending data to the department. This workshop is aimed at the users of the dataset and those who send the files to the department. We strongly encourage everyone to attend. Please notify Gregory Dalton on the numbers below to register for the workshop. The workshop is free and lunch is provided.</p> <p>As outlined in previous updates, the changes to the dataset are the items collected, with data to be reported monthly from 1 July 2007. Data only needs to be submitted for each month, rather than cumulative.</p> <p>Another information bulletin will be distributed to services in the next couple of weeks explaining how data will be sent to the department using the HealthCollect portal. This provides a secure data exchange mechanism as the dataset will now collect name details for some clients (compensable).</p>
Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<p>One off funding has been paid to all community palliative care services to assist them to meet the minimum DHS expectations for provision of after hours palliative care, which will be included in the 2007-08 policy and funding guidelines.</p> <p>An options paper about a future statewide model for after hours palliative care will be distributed for feedback in May 2007.</p>
PEPA	Victoria is in the final stages of negotiating PEPA for 2007 – 2010. More information should be available shortly.

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Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives	The 2008 revision of the Service Coordination Tool Templates is about to commence and it is likely that a palliative care referral tool will be included in this revision.
Statewide Specialist Bereavement Service (SSBS)	<p>Some rural counsellor positions employed by the SSBS have commenced work and others are due to commence shortly once accommodation is finalised. Contact details will be provided shortly.</p> <p>The SSBS has launched two phone information services – a Practitioner Consultancy Service - 1300 858 113 and a Bereavement Information and Referral Service (for the general public) - 1300 664 786.</p>
Rural Palliative Care Medical Purchasing Fund	The Rural Medical Practitioners Scholarship fund is now available. Further information, including application form, can be found at www.health.gov.au/palliativecare
Indigenous palliative care project	The project brief and funding arrangements have been finalised for the Indigenous Palliative Care project between PCV, VACCHO and the DHS.
Health Promoting Palliative Care Project	A Health Promoting Palliative Care project to be delivered across Victoria is being scoped.
Paediatric Palliative Care Policy	The Department is commencing work with the Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Consultancy and relevant stakeholders to develop a paediatric palliative care policy. Representation on a steering group will be sought from palliative care services – if you have a particular interest in being involved please contact Amanda Bolleter.
Motor Neurone Disease pathway with palliative care	The DHS is commencing work with the Motor Neurone Disease Association to investigate how people with MND can access palliative care across the state and what resources would be needed to facilitate this access. The progress and findings of this work will be relayed in upcoming monthly updates.
Employee survey	In April 2007, the DHS sent out almost 1000 survey forms to palliative care service providers across Victoria. The survey is for clinical staff, and is aiming to capture information regarding education level, future work intentions and current work profile. The results of the survey will assist the DHS develop focussed workforce development and retention initiatives.

Contact details for palliative care team members

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