

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

Date: April 2008

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
<p>MND national conference</p> <p>24 June 2008</p>	<p>The 2008 National MND conference “Living better for longer – pathways for the future” will be held on Tuesday 24 June 2008. The Key note speaker for the conference is Dr David Oliver who is a consultant physician in Palliative Medicine in the United Kingdom. MND Victoria are calling for papers for the conference. People interested in the attending or presenting at the conference should contact MND Victoria for more information 03 9830 2122 or info@mnd.asn.au</p>
<p>International Conference on Grief & Bereavement 15-18 July 2008</p>	<p>The 8th International Conference on Grief & Bereavement in contemporary Society: Consequences of Loss: Resiliency & Complications in the Grief Experience will be held 15-18 July 2008 at Hilton on the Park, Melbourne.</p> <p>The program will consist of Individual presentations, Symposia, Rapid communication poster sessions, Practice forums, How to sessions and Workshops and will feature internationally and locally acclaimed speakers. Registrations close on 20 May 2008. Register online now at the conference website http://www.icgb08.com.</p>
<p>2008 statewide meetings</p>	<p>Many thanks to those who attended the statewide meeting on 17/4 and contributed to the presentations and discussion. The next statewide meeting will be on Thursday 16 October from 10am – 4pm (approx). The venue will be confirmed prior to the meeting. The focus of the meeting will be presentations from statewide services and academic units about their work in implementing the <i>Strengthening Palliative Care</i> policy.</p> <p>All consortia, statewide services, PCV, academic units and DHS regional representatives are invited to attend.</p>
<p>PEPA</p>	<p>The first palliative approach workshop for metropolitan Aboriginal health workers was held in March. The feedback from participants was extremely positive and additional workshops are planned for next year.</p> <p>Applications are being accepted for both the palliative approach workshops for allied health staff, (scheduled in May) as well as for supervised clinical placement. Further information available at: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA</p>

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Health Promoting Palliative Care (HPPC)	The three palliative care consortia implementing the HPPC project have appointed co-ordinators to manage the project in their respective regions. They are: Helen Corbett (North and West), Stephen Bradshaw (Southern), and Barbara Young (Hume). Inquiries about the project should be directed to the HPPC project manager, Sue Salau (ssalau@pallcarevic.asn.au).
Palliative care referral project	Based on feedback from the consultation workshop and the expert panel, the advisory group has reached agreement on the content of the palliative care referral tool to be piloted with palliative care and non palliative care services. The pilot will be conducted in July 2008. If your service is interested in taking part in the pilot, please contact Amanda Bolleter.
After hours equipment grants	Thank you to the community palliative care services who submitted applications for after hours equipment funding. These applications are currently being processed and services will be advised of the outcome shortly.
Paediatric palliative care policy	Many thanks to those who provided feedback on the draft paediatric palliative care policy. The policy is currently being finalised and is due to be launched at the end of May.
Employee & Volunteer survey	<p>Palliative Care Victoria have been contracted to write a report on the information collected from the volunteer workforce in Victoria's palliative care services. The report is expected to be available in July 2008.</p> <p>The writing of the report from the employee survey information is progressing. At this stage there is no clear timeframe for when it will be available.</p>
Satisfaction tool development project	<p>The development of a new instrument to measure satisfaction from adult clients and carers of inpatient and community palliative care services is progressing very well. By the end of April a final version of the tool will be completed and ready for piloting in May using three services across Victoria. A final report of the development aspect of the project will be released after June 2008.</p> <p>Over the rest of the year, the project team will use a competitive tendering process to contract an organisation to distribute and collect survey responses from clients and carers, collate and report the results back to services. It is envisaged that the first distribution of tools and reports will occur in the first half of 2009.</p>

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Costing study in palliative care	<p>A number of organisations were invited to quote on a project to determine the costs of delivering palliative care in Victoria. One organisation will be contracted to undertake this work in the coming weeks. The project will entail establishing and measuring the costs to deliver palliative care at inpatient bed based and consultancy services and community palliative care services. The project will be completed by the end of 2008 and will inform the service delivery framework and funding model review project.</p>
Community performance measure and target setting project	<p>A project has been commenced to establish reliable and meaningful performance measures for community palliative care services. Each community palliative care service has been informed by letter of an interim activity target for 2008-09 while consultation is undertaken with the sector to establish a meaningful performance measure and target for 2009-2010. The project will also establish recall guidelines and an adjustment process when additional resources enter the sector. Workshop will be held in August and October for the sector to meet, discuss and decide the ongoing arrangements for performance measures and targets beyond 2008-2009.</p>
VINAH	<p>Community palliative care services have been fantastic in getting the VINAH data into the DHS in recent months. There are still a handful of services who are well behind in their submission and the DHS is working with these services to get them up to date.</p> <p>Draft reports of the data have been generated and distributed to the services for comment. If services have comments they should be directed to Gregory Dalton. Overall the feedback has been positive and constructive.</p> <p>A series of half day workshops/discussions will be conducted within regions in the coming months on how to apply the information contained in the VINAH reports so services can better understand their 'business' and provide improved care and resource management. Gregory Dalton will be undertaking these workshops which include</p> <p>Benalla Tuesday 29 April 2pm.</p> <p>Swan Hill Thursday 1 May 1pm.</p> <p>Please contact your consortia chair or project manager for more details. Other sites and times will be arranged soon.</p>

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Motor Neurone Disease and palliative care pathway project	<p>The interim report for the Motor Neurone Disease and palliative care pathway project is available on the DHS website at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/mnd-report.pdf.</p> <p>The interim report sets out six recommendations that the DHS is actively considering. A final report will be released later in 2008 once the outcome of some further data collection and consultation is completed by MND Victoria. The final report is likely to contain a DHS response to the six recommendations made in the interim report.</p>
Monthly updates on the palliative care website	<p>Back issues of the monthly update will be posted on the palliative care website. We will put the previous month's update on the web at the time the current update is released to consortia.</p> <p>The web address for the palliative care home page is: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/</p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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