

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

Date: August 2007

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Welcome back to Julie O'Donoghue	Julie has returned from maternity leave with the Palliative Care team eagerly welcoming her back. Julie will be coordinating the monthly update from now on. As Julie will initially be working only on Mondays, the monthly update will be distributed to consortia via email on the third Monday of each month.
Improving care forum: Friday 30 November 2007	The Continuing Care and Clinical Service Development (CC&CSD) November forum will focus on Advance Care Planning: policy and program development in Victoria. The Forum will provide an update of progress so far and provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders to participate in policy and program development in Victoria. The agenda is currently being developed and registration information will be available shortly.
2007-08 policy and funding guidelines	<p>The policy and funding guidelines for 2007-08 have been released on the web. The URL for the document is http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/</p> <p>Details about palliative care can be found in Chapter 4, including the projects to be undertaken in 2007-08. The inpatient bed day rate for metro (\$485) and regional (\$489) services is found on page 20. Information about the recall of funding for activity below target is found in Chapter 10.</p>
VicPCRS data reference group	<p>The transition to the new VINAH dataset for community palliative care services is progressing. The goal of receiving all data for July 2007 by the 17 August 2007 is not looking like it will be possible due to unexpected and uncontrollable delays with the HealthCOLLECT portal. The whole of the portal is being re-developed for DHS, and unfortunately the palliative care collection has been caught up in this process. Alternative solutions are being sought, but at present no solution has been revealed. It is likely that the first data submission from services will occur once HealthCOLLECT is ready to receive and transmit data.</p> <p>In the past few months there have been both positive and constructive comments regarding the online VINAH manual. The HDSS help desk would like to hear the views of the services using the manual so that future editions of the manual can be improved with clarity and appropriate examples added where necessary. Anybody who has constructive feedback regarding the manual are encouraged to contact the HDSS help desk on HDSS.helpdesk@dhs.vic.gov.au or 03 9096 8141.</p> <p>There are still a couple of services that have not submitted error free datasets for the 2006-07</p>

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	year. As soon as these services have submitted, the yearly reports will be generated and distributed to DHS regional offices for passing onto services.
Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	Many thanks to those who have provided feedback on the after hours discussion paper. The closing date for feedback on the after hours discussion paper was 14 August 2007. If you have not already done so, please forward any feedback to Amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au by Friday 24 August 2007. A summary of the feedback received and an implementation plan for the discussion paper recommendations are currently being prepared. It will not be possible to include feedback received after 24/8 as part of these documents.
PEPA	There are a few PEPA supervised clinical placements still available for health professionals in 2007 (more info at www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare). Also look out for the PEPA poster at the Australian Palliative Care Conference on Wed 29/8/07, it provides data about the longer-term impact of a PEPA placement on participants confidence and knowledge of the palliative approach.
Victorian Indigenous Palliative Care project	The first progress report has been received and highlights include: meetings with 5/8 palliative care consortia regarding regional indigenous palliative care plans; meetings with Indigenous and palliative care consortia representatives at North & West metropolitan and Loddon Mallee regions regarding PEPA; cultural training sessions for palliative care workers; and significant progress in planning the national Indigenous Palliative Care workshop on 28/8/07.
Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives	The project proposal for the development of a statewide palliative care referral tool is currently being finalised. Once this process is complete, nominations will be called for palliative care project advisory group members. Note that Primary Care Partnerships have already been asked to nominate advisory group members for all the Service Coordination Tool Templates revisions, including the palliative care revision and that palliative care consortia and other relevant stakeholders will also be asked to nominate advisory group members in the near future.
Motor Neurone Disease pathway with palliative care	<p>The first meeting of the steering committee occurred on 26 July 2007. The group had a productive discussion and the project is now well underway. Liz Laffin has been appointed to be the project officer and will be conducting interviews with palliative care providers, clients and carers in the next couple of months.</p> <p>The project is on track to deliver a report to DHS in November 2007.</p>
Turning Policy into Practice Grants	<p>In total, 13 applications were received for the Turning Policy into Practice Grants. The projects proposed were varied and covered many aspects of the Strengthening Palliative Care policy. The panel have met a couple of times to decide on the successful projects.</p> <p>The successful projects are likely to be announced in September's monthly update.</p>
Palliative Care Decision Making Groups project	Many thanks to those who returned the palliative care decision making groups survey. If you

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	have not already done so, please return your survey by Friday 24 August. The decision making groups workshops are currently being finalised. You will be advised of dates and details this week. Joy Humphreys, from the humphreys group will facilitate the workshops, which will take a non traditional approach to helping groups clarify their roles and relationships.

Contact details for palliative care team members

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