

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

Date: August 2009

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
New Department of Health (DH)	<p>On Wednesday 12 August the Premier announced the creation of a new Department of Health (incorporating health, mental health and drugs and aged care) and a new Department of Human Services (which will comprise disability, housing, children, youth and families.)</p> <p>The Department of Health will support the Ministers for Health, Mental Health and Senior Victorians. The coordinating Minister for the Department will be the Minister for Health.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services will continue to support the Minister for Community Services and the Minister for Housing. The Minister for Community Services will be the coordinating Minister.</p> <p>Fran Thorn has accepted the position of Secretary of the Department of Health, and Gill Callister has been appointed Secretary of DHS.</p>
End of life care pathways project	<p>Following the Turning Policy into Practice and End of Life Pathways workshop at Caritas Christi Hospice on Friday 29th May, the DHS palliative care team is now undertaking a mapping exercise looking at how and where end of life care pathways (such as the Liverpool Care Pathway) have been piloted or are currently being used across Victoria.</p> <p>The findings of this project will be used to inform future policy development in this area, and will also feed into the clinical service improvement project where appropriate.</p> <p>If you would like more information about the project, or would like to share your experiences of implementing end of life care pathways please contact Kate Lawrence on (03) 9096 1459 or kate.lawrence@dhs.vic.gov.au.</p>

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Victorian Rural Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Program	<p>The Inaugural Collaborative Forum for the Victorian Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner project was convened by the Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research on Thursday 30 July. The forum was well attended by representatives of those consortia and organisations undertaking rural and metropolitan NP projects, and provided opportunities to collaborate and share insights into the development of models in a variety of settings.</p> <p>For further enquiries please contact Jackie Kearney on (03) 9096 2143 Jackie.Kearney@dhs.vic.gov.au or Jo Hall on (03) 9096 2138 Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au</p>
Service Delivery Framework and Funding Model Review (SDF & FMR) Project	<p>It is expected that the final draft of the Service Delivery Framework will be available on the palliative care website by the end of August. The Final Service Mapping Report will also be available in August. Aspex Consulting will now be developing the Funding Model.</p> <p>If you would like further information please contact Jo Hall on 9096 2138 or Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au</p>
Clinical Service Improvement project	<p>One of the system configuration recommendations in the Service Delivery Framework report is a network model to facilitate and support sustainable and coordinated service delivery. Processes are currently underway to establish a Palliative Care Clinical Network to advise the department on the development and implementation of the clinical service improvement project and other key clinical elements of departmental projects.</p> <p>Jo Hall is available to present to consortia or other regional groups on the key stages of the clinical service improvement project and outcomes to date.</p> <p>To request a presentation or for further information please contact Jo Hall on 9096 2138 or Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au.</p>
Motor Neurone Disease Pathway project	<p>Clear Horizon is currently completing the evaluation framework for the MND pathway project in consultation with key stakeholders. The purpose of the evaluation framework is to ensure the activities implemented as part of the MND Pathway Project are delivering the expected outcomes to clients with MND and their carers and families. The MND Association and the department would seek your assistance in providing information and data to the shared care workers in order to undertake the monitoring and evaluation required for this important project.</p>
Strengthening Palliative Care Policy (SPCP) Evaluation and Refresh	<p>A very successful workshop was held 24 July to provide preliminary results of the evaluation. The participants provided valuable feedback on key priorities for the refresh of the SPCP.</p> <p>Priority policy changes from the workshop were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Health Promoting Palliative Care strategy 2. Policy links with other DHS policies 3. Reverse PEPA in aged care 4. Quality standards

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	<p>5. Minimum standards re access to services 6. Clinical and access issues</p> <p>How to achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of role statements 2. Audit of role statements by consortia 3. Evidence based consistent tools 4. Aged care, advance care planning, aged care assessment services 5. Participate in clinical service improvement program 6. Links between academics and consortia 7. Develop plans across sectors 8. Improved education and link with accreditation 9. DHS Clinical Palliative Care Network 10. Joint appointments <p>The final evaluation report is due for completion August/September 2009.</p>
<p>VINAH palliative care data</p>	<p>Thanks to everyone for their patience during the transition to the new VINAH dataset. We are having some teething troubles with processing the new data so there will be delays in getting error reports back to you. As soon as the issues have been resolved I will be in touch.</p> <p>If you have any problems with this please contact Kate Lawrence on 9096 1459.</p>
<p>Hospital Based Palliative Care Consultancy Teams Minimum Data Set project</p>	<p>The data set pilot has been completed and the data is currently being analysed by the University of Wollongong For more information please contact Jackie Kearney on 9096 2143.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>On Thursday 20 August 2009 DHS, PCV and National Disabilities Service will hold a forum as a follow up to the "A matter of life and death workshop" held in June 2008. At the workshop last year a number of challenges and opportunities were identified including: advance care planning, cross-sector education, access to information, and dialogue and partnerships between the sectors. Since then a cross sector working group has been looking at the opportunities for the collaboration between the sectors. The forum will hear progress of the working group regarding the provision of end-of-life care for people with a disability and provide an opportunity for forum attendees to contribution to how the sectors can better collaborate.</p> <p>To rsvp please contact: Geoff Anderson on Geoff.Anderson@dhs.vic.gov.au or ph: 9096 5451</p>

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SCTT2009 Training	<p>As per previous notification the SCTT2009 training will be held over August in all regions. The training is a Train the Trainer model so those attending would be expected to take the training module/s back to their agency/consortium/region and provide training to the staff and facilitate the change management processes that might be required as a result of this being implemented. The target groups for training will be PCPs and key referring agencies e.g. acute health, district nursing, etc. Resources will also be distributed at the training e.g. User Guide.</p> <p>GPs are not required to complete the SCTT as they have a specific form – the Victorian Statewide Referral Form.</p> <p>There may be opportunities in the future to invite PCPs to consortium meetings/advisory groups to present on the major changes to the SCTT.</p>
DOHA Local palliative care grants program	<p>Round 5 of this program has been announced. The Department of Health and Ageing are seeking applications from health services, organisations and consortia to develop better palliative and end-of-life care for people with a mental illness, Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias.</p> <p>Applications close 30 September. For more information www.health.gov.au/tenders</p>
PEPA	<p>Planning is underway for a round of PEPA workshops specifically designed for disability services staff to be held in October/November 2009. Further details will be advertised shortly.</p>
Victorian Palliative Care Satisfaction Instrument	<p>Expressions of Interest to participate on the advisory group have been requested by Palliative Care Victoria and it is envisaged that the first meeting will be held early September.</p> <p>If you would like further information please contact Ann Zappulla on 9662 9644 ann@pallcarevic.asn.au or Jo Hall on 9096 2138 Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au</p>
IFA on Ageing 10 th Global Conference – Melbourne, Australia 3-6 May 2010	<p>The International Federation on Ageing 10th Global Conference, hosted by Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, will provide a reliable platform for a global information exchange and point of connection for all, working to generate positive social change for older people. The five themes that form the program framework - Climate Change; Social Inclusion; Human Rights; Resourcing Change; and Healthy Ageing, are expected to stimulate new conversations as well as explore in more depth more traditional subject areas.</p> <p>Please send on to friends and colleagues far and wide. COTA Victoria look forward to seeing you at the conference, and hearing your presentation? There are also some great sponsorship opportunities left.</p> <p>Please go to the registration link to find out more http://www.ifa2010.org/registration.asp</p>

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<p>Inaugural International Advance Care Planning Conference –Melbourne 22 - 24 April 2010</p>	<p>The Organising Committee invite you to submit an abstract for the Inaugural International Advance Care Planning Conference in 2010, <i>"Respecting Patient Choices: Working Towards Success and Sustainability"</i>.</p> <p>Advance care planning is gaining increasing prominence in health care around the world as people recognize the importance of patient autonomy, and the right of patients to say what they want if they reach a point where they cannot communicate. There is also a growing emphasis on improving end-of-life care.</p> <p>This conference will give you the opportunity to hear how advance care planning and better end-of-life care is working around the world, look at the impact of legislation, health policy and guidelines and see what strategies are working and why. You will be able to witness excellent research, network with other like-minded health professionals, present your own work and participate in workshops.</p> <p>Abstract submissions close on 11 November 2009 you can find out more about the Conference at this web site: http://www.internationalacp2010.com/call.php</p>
<p>Syringe driver replacement program</p>	<p>Palliative Care Australia will later this week be calling for applications from rural, regional and remote community based palliative care service providers for funding to replace syringe drivers. Letters will be addressed to Consortia Chairs, and services will be required to meet the PCA eligibility criteria.</p> <p>For further information access www.palliativecare.org.au</p>
<p>Palliative Care Decision Making Groups Role Statements</p>	<p>Stage two of the palliative care decision making groups project is to implement the role statements in a consistent and effective manner. At the Strengthening Palliative Care Policy evaluation workshop held in July, several participants suggested an audit process to assist stage two. To facilitate this a draft audit tool has been developed for use by decision making groups to assess their compliance with each of the elements contained within the role statements. Further information on the audit tool and implementation processes will be advised.</p> <p>If you would like further information please contact Jo Hall on 9096 2138 Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au</p>
<p>Palliative Care team</p>	<p>The palliative care team had a planning day on 29 July to update our work plan and identify priority activities for 2009/10. An updated work plan is attached.</p>
<p>Monthly updates on the palliative care website</p>	<p>Back issues of the monthly update will be posted on the palliative care website. Previous month's updates will be put on the web at the time the current update is released to consortia. See: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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