

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

Date: December 2006

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group (PCIAG)	The PCIAG last met on 17 November 2007. Updates relating to the statewide projects are detailed below. The guest speaker at the PCIAG meeting Prue Watters, PCOC Manager Centre for Health Service Development University of Wollongong, 'who presented on What's happening with PCOC, what data is being collected, what it will measure' Prue provided a presentation and responded to questions and discussion on PCOC. Prue's presentation is attached.
Review of hospital based palliative care consultancy teams	<p>The Review Working Group has made their recommendations to the Cancer and Palliative Care Unit and the PCIAG on the allocation of the additional \$1 million. WE will communicate the outcomes with you once the Department has formally endorsed the recommendations. Stage two of the review is now underway, and Dr Chantal Ski from the Centre for Palliative Care will be contacting palliative care services in hospitals to collect qualitative information about palliative care consultancy teams. Stage two of the review will be conducted between 1 January – 30 June 2007 and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scope the number, location, staffing of existing hospital based palliative care consultancy teams. 2. Undertake an evidence review of the utility of consultancy services in the provision of palliative care, and identify any research on the effectiveness of these services in key service delivery area. 3. Develop an agreed understanding of the role of hospital based palliative care consultancy teams and minimum staffing requirements and core competencies, including the role of hospital based palliative care consultancy teams across the Regional Palliative Care Consortia. 4. Identify a minimum data set for collection by hospital based palliative care consultancy teams. 5. Make recommendations for future work to improve the delivery of hospital based palliative care consultancy teams.
VicPCRS data reference group	Nil further to add
Education, Training and Research Working party	Recommendations for the working party have been included into a proposal sent to health services affected by the proposed changes. Letters to health services have been sent.

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	<p>Feedback from health services is anticipated by mid January 2007, at which time a final allocation of funding will be decided for implementation in the 2007-08 financial year.</p>
<p>Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria</p>	<p>Consultation with specific palliative care services and other key stakeholders is taking place in December 2006 and January 2007 to further explore issues raised in the survey of palliative care services and the consultation at the Statewide Palliative Care meeting in September. This consultation is being undertaken by David Wellman and Chantal Ski at the Centre for Palliative Care.</p> <p>The PCIAG has endorsed a model for distributing new after hours funding in 2006-07 and the details of this distribution are currently being finalised. This funding will be partly used (on a one off basis) to assist community palliative care services to meet DHS requirements for after hours care. There will also be a statewide program about care planning to assist after hours care and support for consortia to ensure that after hours care frameworks exist in each region. More detail will be provided to services and consortia at the end of February 2007.</p> <p>An options paper about a statewide model for after hours palliative care will be distributed for feedback in March 2007.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Amanda Bolleter.</p>
<p>PEPA</p>	<p>The seven one-day Allied Health Workshops recently held across Victoria were very well subscribed with 250 people in attendance. Participant feedback has again been extremely positive and supports the argument that generalist health service practitioners want to become more familiar with the palliative approach. It is anticipated that details regarding PEPA for the next 3½ years will be made available early 2007.</p>
<p>Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives</p>	<p>In 2007, key priorities in relation to service coordination will be strengthening relationships between palliative care consortia and PCPs and assisting palliative care services to ensure consistent and accurate listings in the Human Services Directory. Volunteers are sought to work with DHS on these areas – please let Amanda know if you are interested.</p>
<p>Statewide Specialist Bereavement Service (SSBS)</p>	<p>Recruitment of the new rural counsellor positions employed by the SSBS is progressing well with appointments expected in most rural regions shortly.</p> <p>The SSBS is about to launch two phone information services – one for the general public and</p>

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	one for health and community practitioners. Details about these services will be available in the next few weeks.
Rural Palliative Care Medical Purchasing Fund	Proposals have been received, and are currently being evaluated, for this Fund. Regional palliative care consortia will be advised the outcome of their proposals shortly.
Palliative Care Conferences	<p>Please note that calls for abstracts have been called for the 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference: <i>Partners Across the Lifespan</i>, Melbourne Convention Centre, Tuesday 28 – Friday 31 August 2007</p> <p>The preliminary program for the <i>Improving the Delivery of Palliative Care for Older People</i> conference, Sydney Masonic Centre, 15 – 16 March 2007 is now available at: www.changechampions.com.au</p>
Culturally Appropriate Palliative Care	<p>The Culturally Appropriate Palliative Care (CAPALL) Project is an innovative initiative funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing from July 2006 to November 2007. It is based at Banksia Palliative Care Service.</p> <p>The Project Officer is Sue Fisher. Sue has worked at Banksia as a locum social worker over the last six years. As well as being an experienced clinician, Sue is interested in working with community groups, empowering marginalized groups and individuals and enabling their voices to be heard by mainstream service providers and policy makers.</p> <p>The aim of the Project is to promote culturally respectful and appropriate palliative care which takes into account people's religious and spiritual needs. Of course palliative care is about holistic care, and has always included this dimension of people's experience. What makes this project exciting and challenging is that it is attempting to set up a two-way dialogue between palliative care workers and workers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These include indigenous, as well as migrant communities.</p> <p>The idea is that workers and clients from these groups help us to understand what their needs are in relation to palliative care. Relevant areas to understand include cultural beliefs, practices and values around sickness, health and dying. This information will then be fed back to the palliative care team so we can reflect on our own palliative care culture and practices, to consider whether modifying our practice in the light of this information is desirable or possible.</p> <p>Project partners are the Northern Migrant Resource Centre and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, supported by Victorian Community Controlled Health Organization. These organizations advocate for, and support people from non mainstream cultures, They can</p>

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	<p>therefore be seen as a gateway for referrals, a guide to help us to understand cultural norms and expectations, and significant partners to achieve best practice in culturally appropriate palliative care service provision.</p> <p>There are four main desired outcomes of the Project: Information about palliative care services will be provided to clients in their language of choice. Training for Koori and ethnospecific workers in palliative care will provide the opportunity for services to be delivered by people from the clients' own culture. Training in culturally sensitive palliative care practice will be developed and delivered to palliative care workers. Memoranda of Understanding will be completed between Banksia Palliative Care Service and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, and Banksia and the Migrant Resource Centre.</p> <p>Sue is a member of the Koori and Torres Strait Islander Focus Group of the North and West Metropolitan Palliative Care Consortium. The aims of the CAPALL Project in relation to the Koori community are similar to the aims of this group. In order to avoid duplicating resources, it is planned that the two groups will work closely together in 2007.</p> <p>For more information, or if you would like to have input into this Project, please contact Sue Fisher on 9497 2100 or 0439 491 957.</p>
Health Promoting Palliative Care Project	<p>LaTrobe University Palliative Care Unit has been approached to develop a 2 year project to support health promoting palliative care initiatives across all Consortia. It is intended that this statewide project build on the local work of the Consortia, particularly, calling on the networks and connections developed through the PEPA post placement support activities. A project plan will be finalised in early 2007, when information will also be circulated to the Consortia.</p>
Medication administration in aged care facilities	<p>The following link provides information regarding this new legislation which may be interesting. http://www.health.vic.gov.au/dpu/agedcare.htm</p>
Small research grants program	<p>The DHS will be providing one off funding for small research projects commencing in 2007. The details are still in development, but will focus on a partnership between academic units and palliative care services across Victoria. Projects are likely to focus on the statewide development of service delivery models/framework. Guidelines and program information will be provided in 2007 for the funding of development of local proposals. As more information is available, this will be passed onto consortia in subsequent monthly updates.</p>
Christmas Break	<p>The Cancer and Palliative Care Team would like to wish everyone and their families a safe, restful and exciting Christmas Break.</p>

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	<p>There will not be a monthly update from the Palliative Care team in January, with the next update planned for February 2007.</p> <p>Take Care</p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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