

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

Date: February 2007

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group (PCIAG)	The next meeting of the PCIAG is planned for 18 May 2007.
Review of hospital based palliative care consultancy teams	<p>In December 2006 the Working Group presented its recommendations for the allocation of the \$1m for the development of new hospital based palliative care consultancy teams. The Working Group identified that the funding should support the capacity of each health service to deliver the key elements associated with developing a best practice consultancy team. These key elements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Consultancy advice and support to hospital generalist services and treating teams o Consultancy advice, support and linkages to regional community palliative care services o Providing education and training in palliative care o Creating of new positions to support palliative care workforce development o Promoting palliative care and its benefits across the health service o Data collection <p>Prioritising funding allocations was determined by highest number of deaths per health service. (Health services currently receiving funding for palliative care consultancy services were excluded from consideration in allocating these funds). Austin, St Vincent's, Western and Melbourne Health received offers of funding in this allocation round.</p> <p>The next steps are to negotiate with those metropolitan health services receiving funding to develop clear deliverables. The limited amount of funding has meant it was not possible to fund all health services without DHS palliative care consultancy team funding. Funding for further expanding the consultancy model will be sought for 2007-08.</p> <p>Stage 2 of the review will result in the development of KPIs that all hospital based consultancy teams will report against. Dr Chantal Ski, Research Assistant from the Centre for Palliative Care is continuing her interviews with palliative care services in hospitals in order to develop KPIs and identify key issues. A workshop will be held to further develop and refine draft KPIs in May/June.</p> <p>Some one-off funding in 2006/07 will provide some training and support activities to strengthen the ongoing roll of the palliative care consultancies. The Working Group will be considering the options at their next meeting in March 2007.</p>

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VicPCRS data reference group	<p>The development and specifications for the new data set of the VicPCRS is almost finalised. The revised data set and the specifications will be sent to the DMAC committee in February 2007 for sign off, and then services will be informed of the changes required. Services and consortia will also be provided with an information bulletin shortly outlining the implications of HealthSMART and the new non-admitted data storage "warehouse" called VINAH.</p>
Education, Training and Research Working party	<p>Palliative care Training and Development grant allocation have been finalised and signed off for 2007-08. Two significant changes have been included in the grants;</p> <p>1) The inclusion of funding for scholarships for health professionals undertaking post graduate study in palliative care. Scholarships will be available for people working in community, inpatient or statewide service. Scholarships are likely to be available for the 2008 academic year. The details of how the funding will be allocated are still being finalised and will be passed on when known.</p> <p>2) Health services receiving palliative care training and development grants from 2007-08 will be required to report on activities the funding has supported. Health services to receive funding will be notified of reporting requirements when finalised.</p>
Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<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 meet the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist community palliative care services to meet DHS requirements for after hours care. • Develop a statewide care planning program to assist delivery of after hours care • Ensure that after hours care frameworks exist in each region. <p>More detail will be provided 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>
PEPA	<p>Victoria is in the final stages of negotiating PEPA for 2007 – 2010. More information should be available shortly.</p>
Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives	<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>

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Statewide Specialist Bereavement Service (SSBS)	<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 one for health and community practitioners. Details about these services will be available in the next few weeks.</p>
Rural Palliative Care Medical Purchasing Fund	Funding allocations are being finalised for the 5 rural palliative care consortia.
Indigenous palliative care project	The project brief and funding arrangements are still being 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 currently being scoped.
Australian Government Aged Care Funding reforms	FYI, see information at http://www.health.gov.au/securingthefuture

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