

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

Date: February 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. Submissions are now invited and the closing date is 18 Feb 2008. Submit online now at the conference website http://www.icgb08.com.</p>
<p>Workshop: Developing Consumer Feedback Mechanisms that are Accessible and Relevant to CALD Communities and Consumers</p> <p>26 February 2008, 9.30am-4.00pm</p>	<p>This workshop is designed for professionals working in primary and acute health, welfare and community development settings. The workshop will focus on:</p> <p>developing feedback mechanisms that will obtain high quality, relevant information form a divers range of consumers; developing ‘feedback literacy’ amongst a diverse range of consumer; developing translated surveys, translated consumer information and other translated feedback materials; and Consumer feedback into quality improvement processes; and ensuring that your organisation is ‘feedback friendly’ to the feedback provided by diverse service users.</p> <p>Where: Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health, 81–85 Barry Street, Carlton, Victoria Cost: \$198.00 (including GST and lunch) Bookings: Ph: (03) 9342 9700 Email: enquiries@ceh.org.au</p>
<p>Workshop: Working with People with Dementia in Residential Care Settings</p> <p>28 March 2008 10.00am – 1.00pm</p>	<p>This three-hour session presented by Alzheimer’s Australia (Vic) covers topics such as: overview of dementia; developing effective communication strategies; and making most of your visit.</p> <p>Where: 100 Riversdale Road Hawthorn, Victoria Cost: Free Bookings: Are essential, contact Education Service, Ph: (03) 9816 5750 Email: edu@alzvic.asn.au</p>

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Dates for 2008 statewide meetings	<p>Two statewide meetings will be held in 2008, as per the recommendations of the decision making groups project. The dates for these meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 17 April • Thursday 16 October <p>The meetings will run from 10am – 4pm (approx) and the venue will be confirmed prior to the April meeting.</p> <p>All consortia, statewide services, PCV, academic units and DHS regional representatives are invited to attend.</p>
Palliative Care Referral Project	<p>The advisory group have met and work has commenced work on making the broader SCTT suite more suitable for collecting and sharing information with Palliative Care services and the possibility of developing a palliative care specific tool. The next stage of the project is consultation with the sector.</p> <p>Practitioners from palliative care, primary health and acute health services are invited to attend a consultation workshop to discuss the type of information required for effective palliative care referral. This information is intended for inclusion in the SCTT 2009.</p> <p>Practitioner workshop to consider the type of information collected for effective palliative care referral</p> <p>Date: Friday 14 March Time: 9.00am – 12.00pm (lunch served from 12.00pm) Venue: Royal College of Surgeons, College of Surgeons Gardens, Spring Street, Melbourne (outside Parliament Station)</p> <p>Limited places are available. RSVP to Amanda Bolleter by 7 March 2008.</p> <p><i>For more information</i> Contact Amanda Bolleter, Senior Project Officer: 9096 2115 or email: amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au</p>
Decision making project – feedback due	<p>Feedback on the draft roles and responsibilities documents circulated in December 2007 is due by 25 February 2008. Many thanks to those who have already taken the time to submit feedback.</p> <p>A draft of all the roles and responsibilities documents is available for download from: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/palcare_decision_making_groups.pdf</p>

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	<p>Once feedback is received, any required changes will be made and the documents will be finalised by DHS for implementation.</p> <p>The next stage of the project will focus on the skills, knowledge and processes which each group needs in order to best implement the revised roles and responsibilities developed in Stage One. Stage Two will commence in March 2008.</p>
PEPA	<p>PEPA supervised clinical placement applications are now being sought from GPs/rural medical practitioners, nurses, Aboriginal health workers and allied health professionals. Further details, including the application form, can be found at: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA</p>
VINAH	<p>Most services are now regularly and successfully submitting data through the HealthCollect portal and getting clear import/error reports for their data. On the whole, the software programs used by services to collect and transmit the data are working very well, which a great credit to the software companies who developed them. There are still a few minor hiccups, but these are being worked through.</p> <p>At present about half of all services are up to date with their data submissions, that is they have submitted their January data. Most services have submitted some data and most of these have submitted quite a few months of data. We are very keen to get every service up to date as soon as possible with their community data submission. If you have any queries about this or need any assistance, please call Gregory Dalton using the numbers below.</p> <p>In the next few weeks we hope to send back to services our first DRAFT version of a report on activity. The initial reports will be offered for feedback re content and layout. Services will be informed of a process to submit comments.</p>
Employee and volunteer survey	<p>In total 466 surveys were returned to the DHS as part of the volunteer survey. We will now look at the results of the volunteer and employee survey with a report to be produced and distributed to the sector for comment. It is not know when this report will be due.</p>
Turning policy into practice projects	<p>The initial three seminars for the Turning Policy into Practice project teams have been undertaken. Project teams report they are well underway and all making steady progress towards the finishing date of December 2008.</p>

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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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