

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

**Date: July 2007**

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
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 <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/</a></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>From 1 July 2007, VicPCRS ceased to exist and now the VINAH dataset has taken its place. From the number of phone calls received (only a few) in the past couple of weeks, the transition has gone reasonably smoothly. The Palliative Care team would like to thank everyone for their efforts in making the transition.</p> <p>We look forward the next hurdle to jump in this process, and that is the first transmission of data, which is due to occur in August (send July's data). As details of the HealthCollect portal come to hand they will be passed on to services.</p> <p>The reports for the total 2006-07 year's activity will be available from your local DHS regional office as soon as everyone has submitted an error free dataset.</p>
Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<p>The discussion paper for this project is being mailed to services and consortia for feedback on Friday 13 July 2007. Feedback is requested by 14 August 2007.</p> <p>The multidisciplinary care planning workshop associated with this project is being held on Friday 20 July. Places are still available – email <a href="mailto:Amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au">Amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au</a> to register.</p>
PEPA	<p>Positions are still available for PEPA supervised clinical placements at specialist palliative care services in 2007. Health care professionals eligible include: general practitioners, nurses (general health care, residential aged care and specialist palliative care) and Aboriginal health workers. An information kit and application form are available on the DHS website at <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare">www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</a>.</p>

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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 project advisory group members.
Health Promoting Palliative Care Project	The La Trobe University palliative care unit will commence a Health Promoting Palliative Care (HPPC) project across Victoria in July 2007.
Motor Neurone Disease pathway with palliative care	<p>A number of nominations were received for the steering committee for this project from a wide cross section of the palliative care and disability sectors.</p> <p>The steering committee for this project will be Mr Rod Harris (Chair), Ms Jennene Arnel (MND Vic), MND Vic Project Officer, Mr John Kenwright (Eastern Palliative Care), Dr Susan Mathers (Calvary Healthcare Bethlehem), Dr Helen Austin (St Vincent's Health), Ms Catherine Duck (Melbourne CityMission), Ms Jennifer Noonan (Wimmera Hospice Care), Mr Geoff Anderson (DHS) and Mr Gregory Dalton (DHS).</p>
Employee survey	A total of 481 surveys were returned, a 51.8% response rate. The majority of the data from the surveys has been entered into a database, and in the coming months, a full analysis of the survey will be available. It is planned that findings will be disseminated to the palliative care sector later in the year, once a report of the findings is completed.
Turning Policy into Practice Grants	The closing date for this project is Thursday 12 July 2007. It is likely that more details of the successful projects will be available in the August monthly update.
Support for people needing palliative care who are at home ( <i>Commonwealth government initiative</i> )	<p>DHS will commence developmental work on two two-year pilot projects in July 2007. The projects are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing the role of a pharmacist in community palliative care multidisciplinary teams to improve outcomes for people at home and their carers</li> <li>2. Improving access to palliative care for people who have had a stroke and their carers.</li> </ol>

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Palliative Care Decision Making Groups project	<p>A survey about the goals, roles, processes and interpersonal relationships of palliative care decision making groups has been sent to all members of all palliative care decision making groups (consortia, consortia chairs, consortia project managers, implementation advisory group, statewide services, academic units and DHS palliative care team and regional contacts).</p> <p>Please return the survey by Tuesday 17 July.</p> <p>Workshops with decision making groups are planned for late July – August 2007.</p>
Measuring satisfaction in the palliative care sector	<p>In June 2007, a Request for Quotation was distributed to nine organisation asking them to submit a proposal and quote and undertake a project to develop and pilot test new satisfaction instruments for the inpatient and community palliative care services in Victoria. The closing date for the Request for Quotation was Thursday 12 July 2007. In coming months, it is anticipated that the progress of this project will be relayed through the monthly updates.</p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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