

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

Date: June 2007

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
VicPCRS data reference group	<p>Information bulletin 3 has been distributed to community palliative care services. This bulletin outlined some of the principles that will be adopted regarding the structure of the dataset when reporting.</p> <p>A follow up information workshop was held at the beginning of June for people who were not able to attend the original workshop in April. Exactly the same material was presented, and again it was useful time spent. A lot of scenarios were discussed hopefully providing clarity around what is expected.</p> <p>A CD-ROM has been produced that has all the "edits" or rules for the data when submitting data from 1 July 2007. These CD-ROMs have been distributed to each software provider so that tests can be undertaken to ensure that when data is submitted it will be error free and in the correct format. Services should be working with their software provider in the coming couple of weeks to ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They know exactly what data needs to be collected from 1 July 2. They are able to enter the data into their systems in a user friendly manner 3. They know how to generate the two files to submit to the DHS after July 2007 4. They understand clearly the process of moving from the old to the new data set in July including when and how data from the 2006-07 can be submitted. <p>Each service has been provided with their username and password for the HealthCOLLECT portal which is the method of sending data AFTER 1 July 2007. The web address for the "test" web site has been provided previously to services. Please use the same username and password for the "live" web site when it is launched. Note that if services alter their username and password in the test site, this information will not be transferred to the live site.</p> <p>Section 2 and section 3 of the VINAH manual have been released on the web. These sections are particularly relevant to services as they contain the concept definitions and the data items and code sets for each variable. There is a link from the palliative care website at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/</p> <p>If there are any questions regarding the old and new data sets please contact Gregory Dalton on the numbers below.</p>

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Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<p>An options paper about a future statewide model for after hours palliative care will be distributed for feedback at the end of June 2007.</p> <p>A multidisciplinary care planning workshop for palliative care clinicians and managers will be held on 20 July 2007 at DHS. The intention of this workshop is to assist services to anticipate client and carer issues which may arise after hours and develop strategies to manage these issues. This will be an opportunity for services to share their own experience in multidisciplinary care planning and to gain new ideas from other services. Further information about this workshop will be sent to palliative care clinicians and managers in the week of 18 June.</p>
PEPA	Applications are being sought for 2007 PEPA supervised clinical placements at specialist palliative care services. Health care professionals eligible to apply for placements 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 www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare . Applications close on 22 June 2007.
Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives	The DHS project proposal to develop a palliative care statewide referral tool is currently being finalised. Once this proposal has been approved Palliative care representatives will be sought for the Project Advisory Group.
Indigenous palliative care project	In the second half of 2007 meetings will be held between DHS representative, Indigenous Palliative Care project officer (Joanne Harrison), consortia members and Indigenous representatives from each region to review their regional Indigenous palliative care development plans.
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>Thank you for the feedback that was received on the draft project brief and Terms of Reference for this project.</p> <p>In the coming weeks, a project officer will be appointed and a call for nominations for the steering committee will be undertake. This will commence once final approval for the project has been obtained.</p>

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Employee survey	Thank you to all services that have returned completed surveys. The employee survey collection period will close at the end of the June. If services have completed surveys could they please submit them as soon as possible. So far approximately 51% of surveys have been returned. In the new financial year, data will be entered and an analysis undertaken. Results of the analysis will be available towards the end of 2007.
Turning Policy into Practice Grants	<p>The DHS is undertaking project to provide one off funding to services to evaluate the impact of the <i>Strengthening palliative care</i> policy on their service delivery. A total \$100,000 of this funding has been earmarked for projects undertaken by hospital based consultancy teams.</p> <p>Information packs and applications forms for this project have been distributed to palliative care services and consortia. The palliative care web site (http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/) also has copies of both documents. In total up to eight projects will be supported</p> <p>The closing date for applications is Thursday 12 July 2007. No late applications will be accepted.</p>
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"> 1. Developing the role of a pharmacist I community palliative care multidisciplinary teams to improve outcomes for people at home and their carers 2. Improving access to palliative care for people who have had a stroke and their carers.
Palliative Care Decision Making Groups project	<p>The working group for this project has been established. The members of the working group and the areas they represent are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Cockayne (Implementation Advisory Group) 2. Maggie Fernie (DHS regional contacts) 3. Kevin Larkins (PCV and statewide services) 4. Tracey Mander (Project Managers) 5. Lyn Hayes (Consortia chairs - metro) 6. Anne Curtin (Consortia chairs - rural) 7. Dianne Scott (DHS, Funding, Health and Information Policy Branch) 8. Molly Carlile (independent role - expertise in governance etc) <p>There will be extensive consultation with palliative care decision making groups during stage one of the project (June - December 2007). A survey will be sent to all groups and this will be followed by a workshop with each group to agree their structure, roles and responsibilities.</p>

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Short Course in Psychotherapy	<p>The Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research is offering a 12 week, part-time course for professionals wishing to develop psychotherapeutic skills working with cancer patients. The course includes an Intensive Weekend of practical experience in the techniques and processes covered in lectures.</p> <p>The objective of the course is to introduce the participant to basic psychotherapeutic principles and different forms of psychotherapy. The course is directed at professionals from diverse health-related backgrounds who are interested in developing psychotherapeutic skills when working with cancer patients and their families.</p> <p>The course will run from 26 July 2007 to 25 October 2007, with non teaching weeks including 20 and 27 September. The intensive weekend will be held between Friday 7 September to Sunday 9 September inclusive.</p> <p>Attached with the monthly update is an information flyer with registration form.</p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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