

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

Date: June 2009

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Victorian Rural Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Program	<p>Five successful applications from each rural palliative care consortium have been announced for the program to implement Nurse Practitioner models in rural palliative care. The following auspicing agencies have proposed innovative and collaborative service model development for their regions: Ballarat Health, Barwon Health, Bendigo Health, Central Gippsland Health Service, and Northeast Health Wangaratta.</p> <p>An Industry Briefing for successful sites was held by DHS Nurse Policy Branch at DHS, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Tuesday 9 June 2009. The briefing was followed by a workshop facilitated by the Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research, who will convene the Victorian Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Collaborative.</p> <p>For further enquiries please contact Jackie Kearney on (03) 9096 2143 Jackie.Kearney@dhs.vic.gov.au or Jo Hall on (03) 9096 2138 Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au</p>
PEPA	<p>PEPA placements numbers are up this year however there are still some vacancies particularly for GPs and nurses. See: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA</p> <p>As part of the post placement support funding Palliative Care Victoria has developed a pod cast education program looking at aspects of palliative care. The pod casts can be accessed at www.pallcarevic.asn.au.</p>
Service Delivery Framework and Funding Model Review (SDF & FMR) Project	<p>The Service Delivery Framework Consultation workshops have been held in each consortium region during June. Written submissions to Aspex Consulting are invited on the draft Service Delivery Framework. It is expected that the final Service Delivery Framework will be available by end June 2009 when work will commence on the Funding Model.</p>

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	If you would like further information please contact Jo Hall on 9096 2138 or Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au
Turning Policy into Practice seminar	The <i>Turning Policy into Practice Seminar</i> was held during National Palliative Care Week, followed by a workshop on <i>Pathways for patients at the end of life</i> . This event was held at Caritas Christi Hospice Kew and attended by approximately 70 participants. Copies of the presentations have been forwarded to the sector. For further information please contact Jo Hall on 9096 2138 or Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au .
Strengthening Palliative Care Policy (SPCP) Evaluation and Refresh - note workshop date of 24 July 2009	<p>Interviews with key stakeholders are currently underway and are due for completion by 1 July. 40 key stakeholders have taken part in interviews to date.</p> <p>Many thanks to all services who completed the evaluation survey. We have received 52 responses to the survey, which is a good outcome. A report of the evaluation survey outcomes will be included in the overall evaluation report.</p> <p>Consumer consultation will take place via palliative care day hospices between 18 June and 1 July.</p> <p>A full day workshop will be held on 24 July 2009 to provide preliminary results of the evaluation and seek the palliative care sector's feedback about key priorities for the refresh of the SPCP. A draft evaluation report will be circulated to the sector prior to the workshop.</p>
Paediatric palliative care	<p>The Nucleus Consulting group has been undertaking a service mapping exercise re. respite for children with a life-threatening condition. The final report will be available shortly.</p> <p>Cancer and Palliative Care has been working closely with the Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care program, Disability Services Division and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to improve timely access to aids and equipment for children with a life-threatening condition.</p>
VINAH palliative care data submissions & information sessions	<p>A reminder that all VINAH data submissions for May should be uploaded to the portal by the 17th June. If you have any problems with this please contact Kate Lawrence on 9096 1459.</p> <p>Following the VINAH information sessions which were held on the 27th May, a set of frequently asked questions have been developed to clarify all of issues that were raised by both palliative care services and software vendors.</p> <p>If you would like a copy of the frequently asked questions document please contact Kate Lawrence on 9096 1459 or kate.lawrence@dhs.vic.gov.au.</p>

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Hospital Based Palliative Care Consultancy Teams Minimum Data Set project	<p>The data set will be piloted in health services by the Palliative Care Consultancy Teams from 1 – 31 July 2009 inclusive. Consultancy teams have been involved in the development of the data set and have undertaken training for the pilot. The pilot will require each staff member of the team to complete a staff activity log and to fill out a patient data form for each patient seen by the team. The data items have been developed taking into account burden of data collection and clinical relevance. The data items have been selected in consultation with the teams involved.</p> <p>For more information please contact Jackie Kearney on 9096 2143.</p>
Supportive Care Conference - 19 Oct 2009	<p>Please see attached, a 'Call for Abstracts' for the Victorian Integrated Cancer Services - Supportive Care Conference 2009.</p> <p>The abstract template can be downloaded from this website www.wcmics.org</p> <p>Abstracts close Friday 3rd July 2009, 5pm.</p>
VAED changes - Changes to palliative care inpatient coding definitions from 1 July 2009.	<p>From 1 July 2009, palliative care services will be able to statistically admit/separate to/from Palliative Care (Care Type 8). This will remove the need to collect Palliative Care Patient Days.</p> <p>This change has been made in response to requests from palliative care services to be able to statistically separate palliative care patients within a health service.</p>
Monthly updates on the palliative care website	<p>Back issues of the monthly update will be posted on the palliative care website. Previous month's updates will be put on the web at the time the current update is released to consortia.</p> <p>See: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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