

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

Date: March 2007

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group (PCIAG)	The next meeting of the PCIAG is planned for 18 May 2007.
VicPCRS data reference group	<p>A set of draft specifications outlining alterations to the community palliative care dataset have been posted on the internet at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hdss/vinah/index.htm. While the specifications are in draft format, there is unlikely to be any substantial change to the data items and any change will be clearly indicated subsequent versions of the dataset.</p> <p>Cancer and Palliative Care Unit in partnership with the Health Data Systems and Standards (HDSS) Unit will commence working with community services to facilitate as smooth a transition as possible. The new dataset will need to be reported from 1 July 2007 and reporting will be monthly instead of quarterly. Services should note that while the dataset needs to alter, the mechanism that data is transmitted to the department does not need to change until services receive a HealthSMART product as part of the roll out.</p>
Education, Training and Research Working party	<p>The introduction of scholarships for medical, nursing and allied health professionals to progress their skills and qualifications in palliative care will be introduced for the academic year in 2008. The exact amount each scholarship is worth, and the list of courses that will be eligible for support have not been finalised. When details are available, consortia will be notified.</p>
Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<p>The development of a statewide after hours palliative care model for Victoria is being jointly undertaken by the Centre for Palliative Care and the Department, in consultation with the palliative care sector. The outcomes of this work will be implemented (with recurrent funding) from 2007-08.</p> <p>In the interim, in 2006-07, \$400,000 will be allocated on a non recurrent basis to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify minimum DHS expectations for provision of After Hours palliative care. Proposed text for the 2007-08 policy and funding guidelines is attached. • Support palliative care services to meet minimum expectations for the provision of After Hours palliative care • Consortia to ensure frameworks for provision of after hours palliative care • Statewide facilitation of multidisciplinary care planning (including after hours care)

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	<p>As part of the support to palliative care services, one off funding is being allocated to community palliative care services to assist them to meet the minimum DHS expectations for provision of after hours palliative care. It is expected that community palliative care services will use a maximum of \$5,000 of this funding to undertake an assessment of current policy and practice in relation to after hours palliative care against the guidelines outlined in the Worksafe Victoria publication 'Working Safely in Visiting Health Services.'</p> <p>The remaining funds allocated to each community palliative care service should be used to develop strategies to address gaps identified in the assessment, for example purchasing items of equipment or occupational health and safety training.</p> <p>Community palliative care services will receive these funds in March-April 2007. Letters containing more information about the assessments etc will be sent to each service.</p> <p>An options paper about a future statewide model for after hours palliative care will be distributed for feedback in May 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. In 2007 clinical placements will be available for general/medical practitioners, nurses (primary care, residential care, specialist palliative care) and Indigenous health workers. 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>
Statewide Specialist Bereavement Service (SSBS)	<p>Recruitment of the new rural counsellor positions employed by the SSBS is progressing well with appointees expected to commence work in each region in the next 2 – 5 weeks.</p> <p>The SSBS is about to launch two phone information services – a Practitioner Consultancy Service - 1300 858 113 and a Bereavement Information and Referral Service (for the general public) - 1300 664 786.</p>

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Rural Palliative Care Medical Purchasing Fund	Funding allocations have been finalised for 4 rural palliative care consortia and is currently being finalised for the fifth 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.
Paediatric Palliative Care Policy	The Department is commencing work with the Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Consultancy and relevant stakeholders to develop a paediatric palliative care policy. Representation on a steering group will be sought from palliative care services – if you have a particular interest in being involved please contact Amanda Bolleter.

Contact details for palliative care team members

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