

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

Date: March 2008

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
MND national conference 24 June 2008	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
International Conference on Grief & Bereavement 15-18 July 2008	The 8 th 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. 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 .
Workshop: Working with People with Dementia in Residential Care Settings 28 March 2008 10.00am – 1.00pm	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. Where: 100 Riversdale Road Hawthorn, Victoria Cost: Free Bookings: Are essential, contact Education Service, Ph: (03) 9816 5750 Email: edu@alzvic.asn.au
Dates for 2008 statewide meetings	Two statewide meetings will be held in 2008, as per the recommendations of the decision making groups project. The dates for these meetings are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 17 April • Thursday 16 October The meetings will run from 10am – 4pm (approx) and the venue will be confirmed prior to the April meeting. All consortia, statewide services, PCV, academic units and DHS regional representatives are invited to attend.
PEPA	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 .

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Palliative care referral project	Thank you to those who attended the consultation workshop on 14 th March – the information provided about ‘what makes a good palliative care referral’ was very valuable. A summary of the notes from the day will be provided to participants. The next steps are for the advisory group and an expert panel to consider the content and layout of the palliative care referral approach. This will be done by the end of April 2008. Following this, the approach to palliative care referral will be piloted with palliative care and non palliative care services. If your service is interested in taking part in the pilot, please contact Amanda Bolleter.
After hours equipment grants	All community palliative care services have received an invitation to submit an application to purchase equipment which will assist in providing after hours palliative care which meets occupational health and safety standards. Applications are due by 28 March 2008. A copy of the application form is available for download at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/ah-fund-request-proforma.doc
Feedback on decision making groups project documents	Many thanks to those who have provided feedback on the draft roles and responsibilities documents which were generated as part of the first stage of the decision making groups project. If you have not already done so, please provide feedback and comments to Amanda Bolleter by Monday 31 March.
Monthly updates on the palliative care website	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. The web address for the palliative care home page is: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/

Contact details for palliative care team members

Jackie Kearney (Mon, Wed – Fri)	9096 2143	Jackie.Kearney@dhs.vic.gov.au
Amanda Bolleter (Mon – Fri)	9096 2115	Amanda.Bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au
Ellen Sheridan (Mon – Fri)	9096 5296	Ellen.Sheridan@dhs.vic.gov.au
Gregory Dalton (Mon – Fri)	9096 1459	Gregory.Dalton@dhs.vic.gov.au
Julie O’Donoghue (Mon)	9096 1330	Julie.Odonoghue@dhs.vic.gov.au

