


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

Date: March 2009

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Palliative Care Supplementary Information Tool (SCTT)	<p>An Information Forum will be held 2.30pm Thursday 26 March at the State Library of Victoria – Seminar Room 1, State Library Conference Centre, 328 Swanston Street (enter via Entry 3 in La Trobe Street) for the 1 July release of the 2009 Service Coordination Tool Templates. The templates include the Palliative Care Supplementary Information tool. The DHS Primary Health Branch will be presenting on information technology requirements, and the training and implementation strategy for the palliative care sector.</p> <p>An invitation flier has been distributed to interested palliative care providers. Please contact Jo Hall on 9096 2138 or Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au to register as venue capacity is limited, or for further information.</p>
Clinical Service Improvement Program	<p>Consultations are currently underway with each of the Consortium Managers and other consortium members to progress this work. Quality service mapping information provided by agencies to Aspex Consulting has been utilised to commence discussions.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the Consortium Clinical/Practitioners Group, as defined in the role statements for palliative care decision making groups, will take up the role as the regional clinical quality group.</p> <p>The development of the clinical service improvement program will take into account, and be integrated with, a number of existing activities at both the state and national levels, focusing on quality improvement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery Framework • Refresh of the Strengthening Palliative Care policy • Palliative Care Australia National Standards and Assessment Program • Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration • National reporting requirements through the Council Of Australian Governments

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Victorian Palliative Care Satisfaction Instrument	The DHS Cancer and Palliative Care Unit are currently negotiating with an external provider to manage the key deliverables, distribution and reporting of this project at a statewide level. Palliative care organisations are able to access and utilise the tools for clients and carers. See http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/vpcsi.htm
PEPA	The PEPA workshops for allied health staff are filling quickly. Interested health professionals, with no/limited palliative care knowledge can apply on-line at the DHS PEPA website: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA
After hours palliative care – pilot projects	The proposals from Palliative Care Consortia to pilot model(s) of after hours community palliative care in their region(s) are due Monday 30 March 2009 . The Palliative Care Research Unit at Monash University, led by Prof. Margaret O'Connor will be developing the implementation framework for these pilot projects.
<p>Victorian Rural Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Project</p> <p>Information on Notice</p>	<p><i>As part of Victoria's Cancer Action Plan funding DHS will be seeking expressions of interest from rural public health services to implement NP models in rural palliative care.</i></p> <p>The attached information sheet provides a summary of funding elements.</p> <p>The aim of this focussed approach is to strengthen Nurse Practitioner models in Rural Palliative Care Services in order to meet demand and enhance access to, and the quality of, palliative care.</p> <p>It is expected that a full call for expressions of interest (one per rural region) will occur at the end of March.</p> <p>Offers of Expression of Interest will be sent to Directors of Nursing for action and Chairs of Regional Palliative Care Consortia for information.</p> <p><i>Please note that applications MUST be supported by, and involve, the Regional Palliative Care Consortia.</i></p> <p><i>For more information please contact Jackie Kearney on 9096 2143</i></p>

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Service Delivery Framework and Funding Model Review (SDF & FMR) Project	<p>The workshops have all now been conducted and a draft report developed. As part of the communication with the sector about the project, a website has been set up. As the project is undertaken the website will be further updated.</p> <p>www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/sdffmr</p> <p>Consultation workshops will be held in June with each of the Regional Palliative Care Consortia.</p> <p>A sector-wide workshop to discuss the draft service deliver framework model will be held in May. The confirmed date and agenda will be sent to you shortly.</p>
Turning Policy into Practice seminar	<p>The cancelled seminar Thursday 19 February will be re-scheduled for May. Planning is currently underway.</p>
Strengthening care for children with a life-threatening condition – policy implementation	<p>The Nucleus Group has been engaged to undertake the mapping of respite services for children with a life-threatening condition.</p> <p>As part of this project the Nucleus Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a service mapping framework to specify all the data and information that will be collected collect data using a variety of methods (including surveys and focus groups) provide a final report to DHS that includes recommendations about how to improve/expand system capacity and enhance access to respite for children and their families. <p>The methodology for the project will include consultation with services involved in providing respite for children with a life-threatening condition, selected palliative care services, families and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>A project information sheet will be distributed shortly.</p> <p>Vivien Adler is the contact for the project and can be reached via vivien@nucleusgroup.com.au or 0408 304 990</p>
Hospital Based Palliative Care Consultancy Team – Minimum Data Set Project	<p>The Centre for Health Service Development lead by Professor Kathy Eagar at the University of Wollongong has been awarded the contract to undertake this project over the next 12 months. Mr Rob Gordon and Dr Peter Martin are now making contact with hospital based palliative care consultancy teams to establish interviews. A workshop will be held in May to consider a proposed MDS and discuss the issues and definitions in the lead up to the piloting of the MDS.</p> <p>The First Advisory Group meeting will be on Friday 3rd April. For more information contact Jackie Kearney.</p>

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<p>Notification of international presentation related to palliative care</p>	<p>Prof Ingvar Bosaeus, from the Section of Clinical Nutrition at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden. Prof Bosaeus will be speaking on the topic:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Clinical Nutrition and Body Composition in Cancer Cachexia: Implications for Clinical Oncology and Palliative Care.</i></p> <p>This talk will be presented at the Southern Health Research Week keynote presentation at Monash Medical Centre on Monday 4th May 2009 at 12:30pm-1:30pm.</p> <p>For more information go to: http://www.southernhealth.org.au/research/Default.htm</p>
<p>Welcome to Kate Lawrence</p>	<p>AS you all know, Greg Dalton has taken up a six month secondment with the Victoria Cancer Agency from Monday 16 February.</p> <p>We would like to welcome Kate Lawrence who will be working with the palliative care team during Greg's secondment. Kate will be providing support for VINAH, working on finalising the workforce and volunteer survey reports, and overseeing the annual reporting for the day hospices and training and development grants. Kate comes with a wealth of experience from the NHS and Healthcare Commission (similar to our Office for the Health Services Commissioner). Kate will also do some research looking at the use of Liverpool Care Pathways/ other pathway development in palliative care services to inform future work in this area.</p> <p>Kate can be contacted on Greg's old phone number – 9096 1459. Once Kate's e-mail is up and running she will be contacting you about VINAH reports as Greg has done in the past.</p>
<p>Monthly updates on the palliative care website</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The web address for the palliative care home page is: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</p>
<p>Amanda and Steve's wedding</p>	<p>Amanda has just returned from her honeymoon in Tassie after gorgeous wedding celebrations on 28 February. Here is a picture of Amanda and Steve looking very much in Lurvvvv!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  H:\Amanda & Steve wedding.pd </p>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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