

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

**Date: May 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>In last month a successful workshop was conducted with palliative care services. There was a lot of productive discussion, resulting in many good ideas and additional queries that need to be resolved. In the upcoming weeks, there will be at least one more information bulletin for services.</p> <p>As outlined in previous updates, the changes to the dataset are the items collected, with data to be reported monthly from 1 July 2007. Data only needs to be submitted for each month, rather than cumulative.</p> <p>With the new dataset to be implemented in approximately six weeks, we are getting ready in the DHS with our own software and new programs. We anticipate each software developer will be provided with a test version of the new dataset with the validation rules by the end of May.</p> <p>Services should be talking with their software developer about the three key tasks of the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand what information needs to be collected from patients as this will change somewhat in the new dataset.</li> <li>2. Understand how the information needs to be entered into the service's system, ensuring that the items available in drop down boxes are appropriate with the new code sets, and that all information is collected.</li> <li>3. Understand how to generate the two files that need to be sent to DHS from the service's system.</li> </ol> <p>DHS' HealthCollect portal will be used as the mechanism to securely transmit data to the Department after 1 July 2007. Each service has been requested to send information regarding service name, and a contact person so usernames and passwords can be allocated. If community services have not provided details can they please contact Gregory Dalton asap.</p>

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Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<p>One off funding has been paid to all community palliative care services to assist them to meet the minimum DHS expectations for provision of after hours palliative care, which will be included in the 2007-08 policy and funding guidelines.</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>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.</p>
PEPA	Victoria has completed negotiations for PEPA 2007 – 2010. The PEPA contract is with the Minister for Health for signature. More information should be available shortly.
Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives	<p>A palliative care referral tool will be included in the 2008 revision of the Service Coordination Tool Templates (SCTT).</p> <p>The North and West Metropolitan Region Palliative Care Consortium have developed a palliative care clinical referral form which will be used as the basis for commencing statewide consultation on the development of a statewide tool.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department's service coordination unit will provide an overview of the 2008 SCTT revision at the statewide meeting on 1 June. Palliative care representatives are also being sought for the palliative care referral form Project Advisory Group.</p>
Statewide Specialist Bereavement Service (SSBS)	<p>All rural counsellor positions employed by the SSBS have commenced work. Contact details are as follows:</p> <p>Hume Region – Rosie Petschack 0447 710 136 (location TBC)  Barwon South Western Region – Shane Brabazon 0447 710 139 (location TBC)  Grampians Region – Jennifer Wilson 0447 710 138 (location TBC)  Gippsland Region – Marg Bailey 0447 710 142 (Based at Latrobe Community Health Centre)  Loddon Mallee Region - Evelyn Chittleborough 0447 710 141 (Based at Bendigo Community Health Centre)</p>

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	<p>The SSBS has launched 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>
<p>Medical initiatives in palliative care</p>	<p>The 2006 <i>Palliative Care Supply and Demand Study</i> projected demand growth in palliative care at four percent per annum until 2011. In order to respond to this growth, the report identifies the need to increase palliative medicine physicians by at least 5 to 6 per annum. All Palliative Care Consortia Plans identified the need to improve access to specialist palliative medicine as a priority. In 2006/07 and 2007/08 a number of initiatives that aim to improve the uptake in palliative medicine are being implemented. These are:</p> <p><b>Development of hospital based palliative care consultancy team model in Metropolitan Health Services.</b>  From 1 January 2007, seven hospital based palliative care consultancy teams are receiving DHS funding. While undertaking the traditional tasks of secondary consultation and advice, as well as direct care, the consultancy teams will also provide additional ongoing medical and nursing positions, thereby creating new training and development opportunities. Additional funding has been received as part of the 2007/08 State budget to further expand these teams. The Review of the Hospital Based Palliative Care Consultancy Team Working Group is meeting in May to make recommendations about the allocation of this funding. The outcomes will be reported in the June update.</p> <p>In addition, the consultancy team model will be supported by a number of one off projects in 2007/08. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a statewide minimum data set to monitor activity and patient outcomes of palliative care consultancy teams</li> <li>• Development of a communication strategy (see below).</li> <li>• Support for two time limited quality improvement projects (see below under 'Turning Policy into Practice' section).</li> </ul> <p><b>Rural medical palliative care purchasing fund</b>  This Fund enables rural Regional Palliative Care Consortia to purchase specialist medical palliative care hours by expanding existing medical arrangements in regions or purchasing new medical consultancy hours where there is no specialist medical palliative care service. The Fund provide rural regions with funding to purchase additional specialist medical palliative care in order to address gaps in access to specialist medical palliative care services/consultations and build capacity for rural regions to become self sufficient in the provision of specialist</p>

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	<p>medical palliative care.</p> <p>A medical practitioners scholarship fund has been established to support medical practitioners' upskilling in palliative care. Palliative Care Victoria (PCV) is administering this scholarship fund. The scholarship fund aims to assist medical practitioners to improve their skills in palliative care in order to improve the quality and competence of palliative medicine for Victorians in rural areas.</p> <p><b>Statewide coordinated palliative care medical training project</b></p> <p>This three year project will address the lack of specialist palliative care physicians by addressing the current inadequate recruitment of specialist trainees and providing a region wide focus on specialist training through the development of a high quality, coordinated training program with a single point of entry and coordination.</p> <p>The model will coordinate specialist palliative medicine training and up-skilling in the palliative approach for non-specialist or generalist doctors. The project will also develop a draft framework for medical involvement in inpatient, consultancy and community palliative care services, requiring both specialist and general palliative skills in the medical workforce. It is expected that Palliative Care Consortia will be engaged in identifying training needs and approaches. The project is auspiced by the Centre for Palliative Care. A part time Medical Training Coordinator will be appointed shortly. A project officer will support this position.</p> <p><b>Development of a strategic vision and communication strategy for medical palliative care education and training</b></p> <p>This project is being coordinated through the Cancer and Palliative Care and Communications Units in the DHS and aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the positive attributes in palliative medicine and provide a clear picture of the training, education and supports available to doctors considering a career path in palliative medicine.</li> <li>• Develop a shared strategic vision and communication strategy for the medical education and training initiatives in palliative care funded through the Cancer and Palliative Care Unit.</li> </ul> <p>The objectives of the project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undertake a consultation process that brings palliative care physicians together with other key stakeholders to rethink and articulate a strategic vision for medical palliative care</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop a communications strategy to promote the vision and associated training and education developments in medical palliative care, including ongoing professional development opportunities</li> <li>○ Map and promote the roles of existing palliative care consultancy teams</li> <li>○ Develop information sheets that describe the vision for medical palliative care</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians</b>  A letter has been written to the Chair, Specialist Advisory Committee, providing information regarding initiatives to promote palliative medicine, and to seek the College's advice about approaches to the training of palliative care physicians in Victoria.</p> <p>A meeting has been requested with the College once the Medical Training Coordinator has been appointed. The meeting will include DHS, Consortia representatives and other key stakeholders to discuss the potential for developing a region-wide model for accreditation of advanced training sites and seek advice on the communication strategy.</p>
Indigenous palliative care project	The inaugural meeting of the Indigenous Palliative Care advisory committee was held on Monday 30 April 2007. The project officer, Joanne Harrison, will meet with 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 has been engaged to deliver a Health Promoting Palliative Care (HPPC) project across Victoria. The project will develop Victorian HPPC policy and practice through partnerships at state, health region and local government level. The two-year project will commence in July 2007.
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.
Motor Neurone Disease pathway with palliative care	<p>A draft project brief and draft Terms of Reference has been posted on the palliative care web at <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</a>. Consortia have been requested to provide a response to the documents taking into account the views of the member organisations within their consortium.</p> <p>Once the project is approved for commencement, it is anticipated that an Expression of</p>

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	Interest process will be undertaken to identify and select Steering Committee members.
Employee survey	To date approximately 25% of the surveys distributed have been returned. If organisations have surveys that they would like counted in the results, please send to Gregory Dalton at the address on the front of the survey. In July 2007, data entry will commence and results will be distributed to consortia when they become available.
Turning Policy into Practice Grants	<p>The DHS is undertaking an application process to provide one off funding to successful 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 application forms will be distributed in June 2007, with projects to commence in September 2007 and conclude no later than December 2008. The findings of the projects will be provided to the palliative care sector.</p> <p>The DHS will support project teams with a seminar series throughout the life of the project. The seminar series will cover topics such as: methodological design, evaluation techniques, change management, literature searching and presentation skills. The seminar series will be flexible enough to incorporate other areas as needs arise.</p>
Support for people needing palliative care who are at home (Commonwealth government initiative)	<p>Two proposals have been submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing for this initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving access to palliative care for people who have had a stroke, and their carers.</li> <li>• Developing the role of a pharmacist in community palliative care multidisciplinary teams to improve outcomes for people at home, and their carers.</li> </ul> <p>DoHA is yet to advise the outcome of these proposals.</p>
Palliative Care Decision Making Groups project	<p>This project was initiated as a response to queries raised by stakeholders about the roles of these groups and how they work together</p> <p>As part of this project the Cancer and Palliative Care unit will work with the sector to review the structure, roles, responsibilities and relationships of decision making groups established as part of the <i>Strengthening Palliative Care</i> policy. This project is about to commence.</p> <p>The groups to be involved in this project include the palliative care consortia (including consortia chairs and project managers), the Implementation Advisory Group, statewide palliative care services and DHS (both the regional contacts and the cancer and palliative care unit).</p>

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	The project brief is being finalised and will be distributed, with letters inviting nominations for the working group, in the next two weeks.

Contact details for palliative care team members

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