

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

Date: May 2008

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
<p>6th Biennial State Conference 23-24 October 2008</p>	<p>The 6th Biennial State Conference “Palliative Care – beyond the boundaries” will be held in Melbourne on 23-24 October 2008. Palliative Care Victoria in collaboration with Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research are calling for Abstract Submissions.</p> <p>The conference will highlight how palliative care is expanding beyond its traditional boundaries, the challenges inherent in this and strategies to respond. The program will provide an opportunity to hear world-class keynote speaker Dr Gomez-Batiste, Director of Palliative Care at the Institute of Oncology, Barcelona and President of the Spanish Society of Palliative Care who will outline strategies for improving palliative care across a variety of settings and ways to demonstrate quality improvement. Visit www.pallcarevic.asn.au for more information.</p>
<p>MND national conference 24 June 2008</p>	<p>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. People interested in attending the conference should contact MND Victoria for more information 03 9830 2122 or info@mnd.asn.au</p>
<p>International Conference on Grief & Bereavement 15-18 July 2008</p>	<p>The 8th 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.</p> <p>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. Registrations close on 20 May 2008. Register online now at the conference website http://www.icgb08.com.</p>
<p>PEPA</p>	<p>The PEPA workshops held around Victoria were very well received with over 300 people registering to attend. Applications are being accepted for supervised clinical placements. Further information available at: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA</p>

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Palliative care referral project	<p>In April 2008, the palliative care referral project advisory group endorsed a final version of a palliative care referral tool for pilot. The SCTT steering committee subsequently endorsed this version (with some amendments) for piloting. The pilot will take place in July 2008. If your organisation is interested in piloting the referral tool, please let Amanda know.</p>
After hours equipment grants	<p>Letters have been sent to all community palliative care services who submitted applications for after hours equipment funding advising their allocated funds. We hope that these funds will assist services to provide after hours palliative care in a safe and effective manner.</p>
Paediatric palliative care policy	<p>The paediatric palliative care policy '<i>Strengthening care for children with a life-threatening condition: a policy for health, palliative care, disability, children's services and community care providers 2008-2015</i>' will be launched by the Minister for Health, the Honourable Daniel Andrews MP at 9am on Monday 26 May as part of National Palliative Care Week. The launch will be held at Very Special Kids (321 Glenferrie Rd, Malvern 3144). All palliative care consortia and services are welcome to attend. To RSVP contact Brooke Blogg (9096 2133 or email brooke.blogg@dhs.vic.gov.au)</p>
Satisfaction tool development project	<p>As a result of extensive consultation with palliative care clients, their carers and palliative care providers a set of tools to measure the satisfaction with service delivery attempting to capture both the experience and the satisfaction level have been developed. The tools are currently being pilot tested with the clients and carers at three services in Victoria. By the end of June it is envisaged that the pilot will be completed and a report produced outlining the tools and their characteristics.</p> <p>Over the rest of the year, the project team will use a competitive tendering process to contract an organisation to distribute and collect survey responses from clients and carers, collate and report the results back to services. It is envisaged that the first distribution of tools and reports will occur in the first half of 2009.</p>
Costing study in palliative care	<p>The process to appoint an organisation to undertake the costing study in partnership with the DHS is almost complete. The project should start towards the end of the May or start of June.</p> <p>There will be a call for expressions of interest from services who would like to participate in the study. It is envisaged that participating will require the service to provide some information to the contracted information about activity and cost information, but there will also be a considerable upside for any service participating in that very detailed analysis and reporting of the costs associated with activities and tasks in delivering palliative care will be available for future planning and service redesign. Approximately 15-20 services will be required for the study across all services sizes and settings.</p>

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Service Delivery Framework and Funding Model Review Project	<p>A tender has been advertised on 30 April 2008 for suitably qualified organisations to submit a proposal to undertake the service delivery framework and funding model review. An information session was held on 12 May 2008 and submissions are due on Thursday 19 June 2008. The process to appoint an organisation as part of a competitive tender is rigorous and it is not expected that this project will commence until August 2008.</p> <p>Palliative care services will be kept informed about the progress of the project through the monthly update and other media. There will be a lot of opportunities for services to have input into the project through consultation and interviews once the project has commenced.</p>
Community performance measure and target setting project	<p>A project has been commenced to establish reliable and meaningful performance measures for community palliative care services. Each community palliative care service has been informed by letter of an interim activity target for 2008-09 while consultation is undertaken with the sector to establish a meaningful performance measure and target for 2009-2010. The project will also establish recall guidelines and an adjustment process when additional resources enter the sector. Workshops will be held in August and October for the sector to meet, discuss and decide the ongoing arrangements for performance measures and targets beyond 2008-2009.</p>
VINAH	<p>Community palliative care services have been fantastic in getting the VINAH data into the DHS in recent months. There are still a handful of services who are well behind in their submission and the DHS is working with these services to get them up to date.</p> <p>Draft reports of the data have been generated and distributed to the services for comment. If services have comments they should be directed to Gregory Dalton. Overall the feedback has been positive and constructive.</p> <p>A series of half day workshops/discussions will be conducted within regions in the coming months on how to apply the information contained in the VINAH reports so services can better understand their 'business' and provide improved care and resource management. Gregory Dalton will be undertaking these workshops which include</p> <p>Ararat Monday 19 April 10.30 am.</p> <p>Geelong Thursday 1 May 9.00 am .</p> <p>Please contact your consortia chair or project manager for more details.</p>

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<p>Motor Neurone Disease and palliative care pathway project</p>	<p>The interim report for the Motor Neurone Disease and palliative care pathway project is available on the DHS website at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/mnd-report.pdf.</p> <p>The interim report sets out six recommendations that the DHS is actively considering. A final report will be released later in 2008. The final report will contain a DHS response to the six recommendations made in the interim report.</p>
<p>Call for expressions of interest to participate on advisory groups for key palliative care projects.</p>	<p>The Cancer and Palliative Care Unit at the Department of Human Services will undertake four key projects in palliative care during 2008-09 and 2009-10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and refresh of Strengthening palliative care: a policy for health and community health providers 2004-09. • Service delivery framework and funding model review. • Implementation of a tool to measure satisfaction with inpatient and community palliative care service provision. • The development and trialling of a minimum data set for hospital based palliative care consultancy teams (HBPCCTs). <p>Each project will be guided by an advisory group consisting of broad palliative care sector representation. The Cancer and Palliative Care Unit are calling for expressions of interest from suitably skilled and qualified people to participate on one or more of the advisory groups.</p> <p>To register your interest in participating on one or more of the advisory groups, please provide a written application of no more than two pages by 5.00pm on Friday 23 May 2008 to:</p> <p>Jackie Kearney Manager Palliative Care Cancer and Palliative Care Programs Branch Level 19 Department of Human Services GPO Box 4057 MELBOURNE 3001</p> <p>Your written expression of interest should clearly outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which advisory group(s) you would like to be considered for.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the skills that you will bring to the project and how the project will benefit from your involvement. • A summary of your relevant experience and interest in the palliative care sector and how this relates to the project. A detailed Curriculum Vitae is not necessary. • A statement of intention to participate in all relevant meetings and functions associated with the project.
Victoria's Cancer Action Plan 2008-11	<p>As part of last week's state budget the government announced its commitment to fund a new initiative – Victoria's Cancer Action Plan 2008-11. DHS has engaged Dr Jenny King as an independent consultant to work in partnership with the Cancer and Palliative Care Unit on this initiative. A consultation process with representatives from key stakeholder groups has commenced. An Advisory Group will be established to advise the department on the implementation of the Plan.</p>
Monthly updates on the palliative care website	<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>

Contact details for palliative care team members

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