

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

## Date: November 2008

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
<p><i>Palliative Care for People at Home</i> pilot projects</p>	<p>'Improving access to palliative care for people who have had a stroke and their carers' – The first steering committee meeting was held on 22/10/08. Applications for the <i>Palliative Care Stroke Project Nurse</i> position close on 28/11/08.</p> <p>'Developing the role of a pharmacist in community palliative care multidisciplinary teams to improve outcomes for people at home, and their carers' – expressions of interest are currently being evaluated and a host site to pilot this project will be announced shortly.</p> <p>Additional information at: <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare">www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</a></p>
<p>Statewide Palliative Care Consortia meetings</p>	<p>The meetings for 2009 have been scheduled for the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 26 March 2009 – consortia presentations</li> <li>• Thursday 15 October 2009 – statewide services and academic units presentations</li> </ul>
<p>Strengthening Palliative Care Evaluation and Refresh</p>	<p>Thank you to those who have already provided documents for Phase One of the evaluation. As per the email of 3/11/2008 the types of documents that we would like to receive copies of are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluations of consortia or statewide/academic service plans</li> <li>• Revised versions of consortia or statewide/academic service plans</li> <li>• Any strategic planning day feedback/reports - may inform process evaluation</li> <li>• Quality reports and/or accreditation docs that relate to the plan</li> <li>• Final documents (e.g. project briefs, business plans, workplans, final reports, recommendations) relating to projects/initiatives undertaken as part of the implementation of the SPCP</li> <li>• Audits/data related to demand, access, workforce, service coordination, costings or other elements of service provision in your region or statewide/academic service</li> </ul>

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	<p>It would be much appreciated if you could provide a list of relevant documents and copies of the documents themselves to Amanda Bolleter by email (<a href="mailto:Amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au">Amanda.bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>) or mail (Cancer and Palliative Care Unit, Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Services Division, Dept Human Services GPO Box 4057 Melbourne 3001) by <b>Friday 21 November</b> 2008. If you have a large number of documents and are unsure what to send, please provide the most relevant 10 documents and a list of the other documents. Any queries, please contact Amanda.</p> <p>The conceptual framework for the evaluation is currently being finalised and will be made available via the website shortly.</p>
Clinical Service Improvement Framework	<p>This project will consult extensively with the palliative care sector to reduce variations in care by defining and embedding the essential quality elements required to monitor and report on clinical service improvement. This will be achieved through some key objectives including establishing a clinical quality group in each consortia region to ensure clinician participation in the decision-making processes for clinical service improvement; to develop a peer review and evidence-based benchmarking framework; and to collect, report and monitor quality process and outcomes data to inform service improvement, utilising existing data wherever possible.</p> <p>All palliative care services will have monitoring and benchmarking mechanisms in place, and will have the capacity to submit completed performance data to DHS by 2010.</p>
Palliative Care Supplement	<p>The final document is currently with the Service Coordination Team at DHS and will be incorporated into the current revision of Service Coordination Tool Templates due for release in 2009. A workshop will be held at DHS 26 November to update vendors and service providers on the changes to SCTT.</p> <p>Online registration and further information at <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/publications/vendor_forum.htm">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/publications/vendor_forum.htm</a></p>
Decision Making Groups Role Statements	<p>Many of you would have received your copies of the Palliative Care Decision Making Groups Role Statements and CD-ROM. The Role Statements were developed as part of stage one of the decision making groups project. The aim of stage two is to develop strategies to achieve a consistently sound approach to decision making and the implementation of the statements.</p> <p>The role statements are intended to be clear, consistent and achieve effective implementation of the Strengthening Palliative Care policy. All Department of Human Services funded palliative care decision making groups are required to incorporate the role statements into their work. The role statements can also be downloaded from the DHS website at <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/role-statements.htm">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/role-statements.htm</a></p>

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PEPA	Applications are being accepted for supervised clinical placements. Further information available at: <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA">www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/PEPA</a>
Service Delivery Framework and Funding Model Review (SDF & FMR) Project	<p>This project is now underway. 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><a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/sdffmr">www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/sdffmr</a></p> <p>The initial part of the project will be to undertake literature review and begin consultation with the sector. The first workshop will be conducted in December 2008, with the bulk of the consultations to be conducted from February 2009.</p>
Scholarships for the palliative care workforce	Palliative Care Victoria has announced the next round of a funding for scholarships for people undertaking graduate or post-graduate courses relevant to palliative care. The scholarships are for a maximum of \$3,000. Application forms and guidelines are posted on the PCV website ( <a href="http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/">http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/</a> ). Applications close on 28 November 2008.
Community performance measure and target setting project	This project has concluded with a performance measure, activity target methodology and adjustment methodology decided. Executive officers of all community palliative care services will be contacted in the coming weeks and be provided with an outline the changes for 1 July 2009 and an indication of the activity target for their service from 1 July 2009.
Implementation of the Strengthening Care for Children policy	<p>The first meeting of the implementation steering committee was held on 28 October. At the meeting Dr John Collins (Head of the Pain and Palliative Care Service at Westmead Children's Hospital) gave an overview of work in NSW to improve quality of care and communication (with services and with families).</p> <p>The steering committee provided feedback about the key priorities for implementation of the Strengthening Care for Children should be - some of the priorities listed included addressing perceived gaps in access to respite, case management and equipment, communication of the policy principles to families, and communications training and support for nursing, medical and other staff.</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:</p> <p><a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare</a></p>

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Better Practice 2009 – Call for papers	<p>The hunt is on for new speakers for the 2009 Better Practice events. These successful events, held in each state over the past five years have been built around inspiring speakers who have shared their own practical journeys and innovations to achieve better practice.</p> <p>Your opportunity to be part of an event that has given more than 8,000 attendees the ideas and encouragement to raise the bar in their own homes is now here.</p> <p>If interested please read the brochure attached to this email.</p>

#### Contact details for palliative care team members

Jackie Kearney (Mon, Wed – Fri)	9096 2143	<a href="mailto:Jackie.Kearney@dhs.vic.gov.au">Jackie.Kearney@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>
Amanda Bolleter (Mon – Fri)	9096 2115	<a href="mailto:Amanda.Bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au">Amanda.Bolleter@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>
Ellen Sheridan (Mon – Fri)	9096 5296	<a href="mailto:Ellen.Sheridan@dhs.vic.gov.au">Ellen.Sheridan@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>
Gregory Dalton (Mon – Fri)	9096 1459	<a href="mailto:Gregory.Dalton@dhs.vic.gov.au">Gregory.Dalton@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>
Jo Hall (Mon – Fri)	9096 2138	<a href="mailto:Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au">Jo.Hall@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>
Julie O'Donoghue (Mon)	9096 9207	<a href="mailto:Julie.Odonoghue@dhs.vic.gov.au">Julie.Odonoghue@dhs.vic.gov.au</a>