

**Update on Palliative Care Initiatives/Projects
for Palliative Care Consortia and Integrated Cancer Services
Date: October 2007**

Name of Initiative/Project	Progress
Improving care forum: Friday 30 November 2007	<p>The department is currently developing policy and exploring suitable models of care for advanced Care Planning in Victoria. The draft policy will be completed in 2008.</p> <p>The forum will provide an opportunity for interested individuals and groups in the community, as well as primary care, aged care, palliative care, sub-acute and acute and other relevant health service providers and related organisations to have input into the development of the ACP policy. The forum will provide information about advance care planning, including its cultural, ethical and legal underpinnings. In addition, the forum will provide an opportunity to learn about the evidence that underpins various advance care planning models of care.</p> <p>Participants will have the opportunity to share their views and ideas. To express your interest in attending the forum (which does not guarantee registration, as numbers are limited), please email: Gail.Roberts@dhs.vic.gov.au. You will then be notified by email of registration details in late October.</p> <p>Please register early to avoid disappointment.</p>
Development of an After Hours Palliative Care Service for Victoria	<p>The after hours working group and the Implementation Advisory Group have approved an implementation plan for the after hours project recommendations. This is currently being finalised and will be sent to consortia and services once DHS approval processes are complete.</p>
PEPA	<p>The one-day PEPA workshops in October/November are already well subscribed, however there are still some vacancies at Nunawading, Stawell, Traralgon, Swan Hill & Camperdown.</p> <p>There are also a few PEPA supervised clinical placements available for GPs/rural medical practitioners, nurses and Aboriginal health workers.</p> <p>More information on both the workshops and placements, including application forms, can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare.</p>
Victorian Indigenous Palliative Care project	<p>The second advisory group meeting was postponed following the VIPCP project officer Joanne Harrison's resignation from VACCHO. We thank Joanne for her role in re-invigorating interest in Indigenous palliative care in Victoria. We will advise everyone when a new project officer is appointed.</p>

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Service Coordination - implementation of Service Coordination Tool Templates and related initiatives	Nominations for palliative care project advisory group members for this project will be called for by email this week.
Palliative Care Decision Making Groups project	Many thanks to those who completed a survey or taken part in one of the workshops for this project. The survey data and workshop outcomes are currently being written up and will be provided to you in the next 4-6 weeks.
Paediatric Palliative Care Policy Development	A workshop with palliative care services, paediatric services and other related stakeholders will be held in late November – early December to consult about the content of this policy. More information will be available in the next week.
VicPCRS data reference group	Over the past month the DHS has made considerable progress in building and testing our data collection system for the new VINAH dataset. We have now asked services that are planning on sending data to us, without any special components, to send their JULY 07 data. We will endeavour to get error reports back as soon as possible and to assist services to understand the errors.
Volunteer survey	<p>We are in the final stages of developing a survey for volunteers in palliative care services in order to compliment the employee survey conducted in the first part of the year. The survey will be posted to all palliative care services in Victoria in the next month or so after it is checked and printed.</p> <p>It is hoped that results of the two surveys will be available and released to the palliative care sector in the next few months. To date there are no analysis findings.</p>
Measuring satisfaction in the palliative care.	<p>The working party convened to work on the project and the contracted organisation Ultrafeedback have had started working in earnest on this project. The next major hurdle to overcome in developing the tools is to obtain ethics approval from the DHS (November 2007) and the sites we are planning to use to recruit participants for interviews and draft surveys.</p> <p>The working party and the DHS plan on keeping all services and consortia abreast of the content of the draft surveys when they are developed. This process will be outside the research project and part of normal policy development and communication with the sector. Services and the consortia will have ample opportunity to comment on the proposed content and mechanisms for collecting this important information.</p>
Monthly updates on the palliative care website	<p>From this month, back issues of the monthly update will be posted on the palliative care website. We plan to put the previous month's update on the web at the time the 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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