

# PCOC and VINAH for Community Palliative Care

At present in Victorian community palliative care services, two data collections are being undertaken, PCOC (Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration) and VINAH (Victorian Integrated Non-Admitted Health Minimum Data Set). The two collections are being undertaken by different organisations and this information sheet aims to explain the intentions and the differences between PCOC and VINAH.

## PCOC

PCOC is being undertaken by the University of Wollongong on behalf of the Australian Government. It is currently a three year project and is incorporating both inpatient and community palliative care services in all Australian states and territories. Participating in PCOC is voluntary. The main intention of PCOC is to collect information from patients that will allow a better understanding of outcomes for the palliative care patient. PCOC will feed this information back to services in the form of a report that will allow similar services to compare their outcomes. Through sharing this information PCOC will assist services to understand where changes to practice may be possible so that better outcomes can be achieved for patients and their families.

## VINAH

VINAH is a dataset that is collected by community palliative care services in Victoria. The collection of this data is mandated by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The main purpose of the dataset is to provide the DHS with information about the quantity and nature of the activity each service is undertaking and the demographic characteristics of the patients who are receiving palliative care in the community. This information is used by the Victorian Government to reconcile activity levels with funding received and some information is reported to the Australian Government as part of the funding agreement between Victoria and the Australian Government. The information is also used for planning and estimating future demand within Victoria. Information from VINAH on overall activity levels and the characteristics of the patients and the services provided will be reported back to services to aid understanding on the service delivery models employed. Some comparisons will be possible between groups of services.

## Summary

	PCOC	VINAH
<b>Participation</b>	Voluntary	Mandatory
<b>Sector</b>	Inpatient / Community	Community only
<b>Geography</b>	Whole of Australia	Victoria only
<b>Main intention</b>	Outcome information	Activity information
<b>Government level</b>	Federal government	Victorian Government
<b>Dataset administration</b>	Wollongong University	Department of Human Services
<b>Contact person</b>	Kathy Hendry 0418 318 654 khendry@mercy.com.au	Gregory Dalton T 03 9096 1459 Gregory.Dalton@dhs.vic.gov.au

## **The future**

At present the PCOC and VINAH data collections are stand alone collections. The datasets are identical in some areas and very different in others. The future intention is to establish one set of data items that will permit both the collection of outcome and activity information to reduce the reporting burden on services. One data collection will not dominate or take over the other but they will compliment each other. In the future it may only be necessary for services to report one set of data to the DHS, with information relevant to PCOC being passed on, further reducing the reporting burden on services.

The future development and introduction of a new dataset for hospital based consultancy services is also intended to complement rather than replicate PCOC.