

PEPA

Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

THE NATIONAL
PALLIATIVE CARE
PROGRAM

What is it?

There is an increase in demand for health professionals who can care for people with a life-limiting illness. Health professionals who are aware of, and committed to, the benefits of palliative care meet this demand. Palliative care is not just for the final weeks of life, palliative care contributes to decisions and the management of symptoms early in the course of any terminal illness.

The Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) commenced in 2003 and has been funded to June 2010.

PEPA's aims are to:

- enhance the skills and expertise of health practitioners in providing care for people who are living with a life limiting illness and their families
- support and enhance the skills of groups working collaboratively across the professional boundaries
- develop and explore opportunities for health practitioners from a range of areas of practice to gain professional exposure to, and experience in, palliative care
- develop opportunities for increasing the skills and knowledge of health practitioners, including community nurses, in the care of people who are living with a life limiting illness and their families.

Supervised clinical placements

One component of PEPA is supervised clinical placements. Victoria is offering supervised clinical placements in a specialist palliative care service to general practitioners, nurses and Aboriginal health workers. Applications from other health care workers may be considered.

Supervised clinical placements are underpinned by adult learning principles with a focus on experiential and peer based learning. In order to reinforce learning and provide ongoing opportunities for professional support and development, the program incorporates three key components:

1. A supervised clinical placement
2. Integration of learning into the participant's practice and workplace
3. Post-placement support.

At completion of the program, all participants will be able to:

- demonstrate a clear understanding of the principles of palliative care
- identify the needs of patients with a life-limiting illness and their family
- identify the role of their discipline in managing problems faced by this group of patients
- recognise their own knowledge base and scope of practice with regard to optimal palliative care provision
- identify personal coping strategies to effectively manage the personal issues related to working in this field.

Applicants should note that participation in this program aims to enhance participant's knowledge and skills in the palliative approach to care. It does not constitute a formal qualification nor aims to develop advanced skills in the field.

Due to the high demand for placements, **participation in the program is restricted to once only** for all individuals.

Rural participants may be eligible for a travel and accommodation allowance. Employers can apply to be compensated for costs associated with back-fill for participating staff.

Further information including Application Form and Information & Application Kit, available at: www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare or telephone Ellen Sheridan, PEPA manager on 03 9096 5296