

Background Paper

Palliative Care Service Delivery Framework and Funding Model Review October 2009

Aspex Consulting in association with *Health Policy Solutions* was engaged by Cancer and Palliative Care, Department of Health (the department) in August 2008 to work with the palliative care sector to develop:

- A service delivery framework (SDF) for palliative care; and
- A funding model consistent with the SDF.

The intention of the SDF is to provide a common/consistent basis for the provision of palliative care across Victoria. Consideration has been given to the many facets of palliative care that would enable a comprehensive framework to be developed.

The *Final Draft Service Delivery Framework Executive Summary, October 2009* (the report) is now available and can be accessed at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare/index.htm>.

This report builds on background papers developed as part of the SDF project, and include:

- A literature review. '*Palliative Care Service Delivery Framework & Funding Model – Literature review, December 2008*'; and
- A mapping of palliative care services in Victoria '*Palliative Care Service Delivery Framework & Funding Model – Service Mapping Report, May 2009*'.

The SDF was also informed by extensive sector consultations. Eight consultations were held in the regions and involved consortia and member services. A statewide workshop was held in June 2009 for the presentation and feedback on the completed draft. The project was also overseen by an advisory group made up of representatives from the palliative care sector.

A schematic overview of the general approach and methodology to the whole project is outlined at Figure 1.

The final report available on the web page identifies the key decision-making points of the SDF Advisory Group and highlights the endorsed 'preferred options' and any advisory group comments.

The SDF can be distilled into two main 'pillars' – a Service Capability Framework; and System Configuration. These pillars are underpinned by Principles and Program Objectives. The SDF report endorses the existing principles of the Strengthening Palliative Care Policy 2004-09. The report details a number of program objectives organised using the quality concepts of access, acceptability, equity, effectiveness and education and research. The two 'pillars' of the SDF represent the requirements at a service delivery level and the requirements at a system-wide level.

At the service delivery level the SDF details the service expectations for:

- 3 levels of inpatient palliative care service
- 2 levels of community palliative care service
- 1 level of consultancy service

The requirement for each of these levels is detailed in the report on the website.

At the system level, the SDF details recommendations including:

- access expectations
- quality and service improvement activities and reporting
- accreditation requirements
- workforce issues
- the establishment of a Palliative Care Clinical Network

The report was presented for discussion at the Palliative Care Statewide meeting held 15 October 2009. The report and supporting documents were loaded to Victoria's Palliative Care Program Home Page in October for feedback and comment.

Next steps

The Funding Model is currently being developed and will be included in the final document once endorsed by the Advisory Group and the department.

A final document will be circulated end November 2009 to provide an opportunity for palliative care services, their auspicing agencies and the eight Victorian consortia to review and assess their capacity to implement the SDF and consider within the context of the policy framework. The palliative care team will undertake to communicate timelines and implementation processes with services through a process of consultation and consortia/agency visits.

The SDF will inform and be integrated into the palliative care policy refresh scheduled for release in May 2010. Please see the FAQ sheet for further information.

Figure 1: Schematic of Project Overview



