



18 June 2015

## From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

The Palliative Care Australia (PCA) Board met this week via teleconference and discussed the upcoming [13th Australian Palliative Care Conference \(APCC\)](#) and reflected on the success of National Palliative Care Week. The board also confirmed PCA's budget for 2015/2016.

Earlier this week I travelled to Melbourne to meet with staff from St Vincent's Hospital who are involved in the management of the [Decision Assist](#) phone advisory line. The St Vincent's staff provide palliative care support and information to residential aged care facilities and General Practitioners requiring specialist advice via the phone line (1300 668 908).

This week the Department of Health held a forum to discuss the [personally controlled electronic health record system legislation issues paper](#). eHealth plays an important role in the future of the health care with PCA focused on ensuring palliative care does not miss out in this legislation.

PCA is approaching the Benefits, Services and Sport Group in the Department of Health to facilitate a round table meeting addressing issues about accessing palliative care through the private health system. Issues around palliative care's inclusion in private health insurance are an ongoing matter of concern, and have been raised in PCA's submission to the National Commission of Audit. PCA's member organisation in South Australia has also raised particular issues for people in that state.

PCA's Letter of Intent has been approved for the [Pfizer Seeding Progress and Resources for the Cancer Community Metastatic Breast Cancer Challenge](#) grant. PCA and [Breast Cancer Network Australia](#) worked together to submit the successful letter of intent and will continue to collaborate for the next stage of the application.

Decision Assist has been working with the [Aged Care Channel](#) to produce a special event to discuss how Decision Assist can support residential aged care staff to provide quality palliative care services. The 30 minute program will discuss barriers to care and explore the many resources available through the Decision Assist program and how they can, and have, been used by aged care staff across Australia to access training, information and case-specific expert advice. To view the ACC trailer [click here](#).

More Decision Assist Residential Aged Care Facility and Home Care Package [workshops](#) are launching around the country in the next few months. Workshops will roll out to Tasmania, the ACT, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The two day interactive workshops provide the skills and knowledge to implement advance care planning and a palliative approach for residents. The workshops are practical and interactive allowing participants to demonstrate compliance with a number of the Aged Care Accreditation Standards.

More information about workshops in your area can be found [here](#) or contact the Aged Care Training Coordinators on (03) 9088 1252 or by email: [agedcaretraining@austin.org.au](mailto:agedcaretraining@austin.org.au).

**Aged Care Channel program:** Wednesday 29th July for 30 minutes 2:15pm AEST. Please [click here](#) to register.

The APCC is gearing up with abstracts and presenters confirmed. Early bird registration has closed so please register for [standard registration here](#) before the deadline 7 August 2015. After this date only late registration will be available.

## News Briefs

**Palliative care services slashed in south east** - From 1 July 2015, palliative nursing staff will be halved, bereavement services for Mount Gambier and Naracoorte will go and a head of palliative care position will also be cut. To read the full article [click here](#)

**A very special place is a big step closer for Very Special Kids**—The Commonwealth Government will deliver \$4 million to assist the Very Special Kids Hospice in Melbourne to purchase the property that has been its home for 21 years. To read the media release [click here](#)



## eHospice Australia:

### Featured in eHospice this week:

- [Cannabis allowed for terminally ill adults](#)
- [Funding to help Victorian children's hospice buy its city home](#)
- [The value of volunteers](#)