

E-News



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

25 June 2015

From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

This week Palliative Care Australia (PCA) met with members of the [Aged Care Policy and Reform Group, Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#), to discuss how palliative care is defined in the [Aged Care Funding Instrument \(ACFI\) User Guide](#) and to learn about appropriate claiming funding for age care providers.

At PCAs request, DSS examined claims made in the previous 12 months. It found more than half the claims for complex health care were made for the last three months of life, while more than 85% were for the last year of life. Fewer than 10% of all claims were related to the ACFI questions 12-14 (a palliative care program involving end of life care). DSS are also interested in learning more about the proportion of residents who, immediately before death, are categorised as requiring complex health care. The [Decision Assist](#) project was also raised and ideas about how to access and communicate with residential aged care providers and their staff about the program were canvassed.

[The Groundswell Project](#) director Kerrie Noonan met with PCA to discuss PCA's and the Groundswell Project's similar interests. Ms Noonan spoke about [Dying to Know Day](#) on 8 August 2015 to engage the community to talk about death and dying. PCA hope to continue the relationship with The Groundswell Project to help raise awareness within the community to talk about death and dying.

PCA also met with consultants engaged by the Department of Health to undertake a feasibility study to inform a review of the [Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care \(APRAC\)](#) and the [Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting \(COMPAC\)](#). The outcomes of the study will be used to inform next steps for a formal review of the APRAC and COMPAC Guidelines.

This week the ['Reform of the Federation' Discussion Paper](#) was released. It provides options for future reform of the health system. Options include:

- the states and territories fully responsible for public hospitals
- the Commonwealth establishes a hospital benefit

- the Commonwealth and the states and territories jointly responsible for funding individualised care packages for patients with, or at risk of developing, chronic or complex conditions
- the Commonwealth and the States and Territories share responsibility for all health care through Regional Purchasing Agencies
- the Commonwealth establishes a health purchasing agency

The discussion paper is a working draft. A Green Paper is yet to be finalised and due for released in late 2015 after further discussions with the states and territories.

Palliative Care Disability Forum

PCA are holding an information sharing forum in partnership with the A.C.T.



Disability, Carer and

Advocacy Service on 23 July at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. The forum will provide service providers and people with disabilities an opportunity to engage with a panel of speakers who specialise in topics such as palliative care, disability advocacy, planning, honouring patient's rights and the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the palliative care context.

PCA aims to raise awareness around palliative care and disability while also learning from consumers about common difficulties, unmet needs and concerns. The forum will be held from 1:00pm – 4:00pm, and will include catered lunch on arrival. Please RSVP to heidi@palliativecare.org.au.

Decision Assist Workshop

Get in quick to secure your space for the General Practitioner Workshop in Brisbane Queensland. For more up to date information follow [Decision Assist on twitter](#).



What: Living Longer, Dying Better: a framework of palliative care for older Australians living in the community
When: 8:30–10:30am Saturday 27 June 2015
Where: Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, Queensland
Register: Jacqui.Pooley@homedoctor.com.au
For more information visit the [website](#)

World Hospice Day Theme



The theme for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day which will take place on 10 October 2015 is "Hidden Lives / Hidden Patients".

This year's theme will focus on patients who often struggle with access to palliative care. These patients include children, LGBTI individuals, HIV prisoners, soldiers and those living in rural settings.

For more information visit the [website](#)

Workshop/Events

TOOLKIT—New Palliative Approach Toolkit resources for GPs and residential aged care staff

The [PA Toolkit website](#) has been given a significant makeover. Several new resources have been added to help residential aged care staff and GPs provide high quality, evidence-based end of life care. These include:

- [‘Guide to the Pharmacological Management of End of Life \(Terminal\) Symptoms in Residential Aged Care Residents: A Resource for General Practitioners’](#)
- [3 short videos](#)
- Webinar: [‘Someone is dying. What do I say?. Care, compassion and communication at end of life’](#)
- New [resources for educators](#)
- Online version of the [Self-Directed Learning Package for Care workers](#).

SEMINAR—Calvary is Dying to talk about it. Throughout July, Calvary Tasmania invites the community to a series of free events about death and dying

What: What on Earth is a Forensic Pathologist?

When: 5:30pm Friday 3 July 2015

Where: Fullers Bookshop, 131 Collins St Hobart TAS

RSVP: sarah.dejonge@calvarycare.org.au

Cost: FREE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS—3rd Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium “Fostering the development of palliative care research in Australia”

Deadline: Friday 31 July 2015

For more information visit the [website](#)

eh. eHospice Australia:

Featured in eHospice this week:

- [Cannabis allowed for terminally ill adults](#)
- [Funding to help Victorian children’s hospice buy its city home](#)

News Briefs

Experts to inform national carer gateway—Senator Fifield release—The Australian Government yesterday announced the members of a new Carer Gateway Advisory Group to lead an initiative to better support Australia’s 2.7 million unpaid carers.

To read the full media release [click here](#)

Atul Gawande on healthcare reform—Bestselling author of *Being Mortal* and public health research spoke to Norman Swan in front of sell-out audience at the Sydney Opera House for the Sydney Writer’s Festival.

To listen to the interview [click here](#)

Top doctor joins calls to legalise voluntary deaths in first submissions to inquiry—Royal Children’s Hospital nephrologist Dr Harley Powell was among 28 groups or individuals to support medically assisted suicide in Victoria.

To read the full article [click here](#)

End-of-life care: no, we don’t all want ‘whatever it takes’ to prolong life—A survey was conducted of 1166 Australians over 55 about their end-of-life wishes.

To read the full article [click here](#)

Fraser Coast's Palliative Care's van written off—A Not-for-profit group that delivers hospital equipment to the sick and dying has hit a roadblock, after its van broke down beyond repair.

To read the full article [click here](#)

Palliative Care Series—The ABC Afternoons program has completed a special series on some of the specific options available for conditions which will eventually end someone’s life.

To listen to the segments [click here](#)

Canberra Close Up: Liz Forbat—The newly appointed Professor of Palliative Care for Calvary Health and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) joined Alex Sloan for Canberra Close Up on 666 ABC.

To listen to the conversation [click here](#)

Our dad’s story: The personal side of palliative care—ABC’s touching story about one family’s journey through palliative care.

To read the full article [click here](#)

