

E-News



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

30 July 2015

From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

Professor Liz Forbat, Director for the Centre of Palliative Care Research joined the Palliative Care Australia (PCA) team this week to discuss her research and proposed work on conflict in palliative care.

Professor Forbat has come to Canberra from Scotland for her new role and PCA looks forward to working with her and learning more about her work in palliative care.

The PCA and ACT Disability Aged and Carer Advocacy Service ([ADACAS](#)) Disability Forum was a great success last week. The theatre was full and a range of perspectives and information was put forward by the speakers. Palliative care for people with disabilities is an area which requires further consideration by the broader health system and the palliative care sector. Access to services and understanding the issues faced by people with disability are often overlooked. PCA is developing an issues paper drawing on the discussions at the meeting.

Decision Assist held an EPG last week which examined the workshops being run around the country for residential aged care facility staff and carers in the community. The workshops have been extended to include all staff, regardless of qualifications, with a view to broadening general knowledge of the palliative approach and advance care planning. It is possible more workshops will be available in 2016. Follow this link for [more information](#) about workshops in your area.

There are two national reviews underway by the Department of Health as part of their 'Healthier Medicare' initiative - [a review](#) of the Medicare Benefits Schedule and a [Review of Primary Health Care](#) led by former AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton.

PCA will be consulting with stakeholders to develop submissions to the two reviews which are relevant to the provision of palliative care in Australia.

The [first clinical trial](#) into medicinal cannabis was officially launched by the NSW Premier Mike Baird this week. PCA made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into medicinal cannabis initiated by Greens Leader Senator Richard di Natale. PCA supports additional research into the use of medicinal cannabis.

PCA was part of a team that launched the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare [consensus statement](#) on end of life care in acute hospitals. PCA continues to work closely with the Commission around quality and safety indicators and standards of care. I met with them this week to discuss how PCA can work with the Commission to further influence the development of Version Two of the National Safety and Quality in Healthcare Standards.

Looking forward, the PCA Board meets next week as does the National Policy Advisory Committee.

There are many issues to discuss and no doubt a great deal of activity to arise from those meetings.



PCA Conference

The 13th Australian Palliative Care Conference (APCC) with the theme 'Fit for the Future' will be held in Melbourne from 1 – 4 September and will be an important opportunity to broaden palliative care knowledge, learn about innovation and research in the field and discuss work with colleagues.

APCC is the largest palliative care conference in Australia and to debate if palliative care is 'fit for the future', APCC will explore the future of Indigenous palliative care, nursing in palliative care and how social media can shape work lives and also work balance.

Professor David Currow is the Chief Cancer Officer of NSW and Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Institute NSW, the NSW Government's cancer control agency, and has also just received the 2015 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care.

On Wednesday 2 September, Professor Currow will join a panel discussion asking the question 'What does palliative care need to do to be fit for the future'? Panellists will include Dr Christian Sinclair, University of Kansas Medical Center; Dr Gail Eva, Brunel University London and Dr Scott Martin, CSIRO.

More details: [program](#).

The last opportunity for standard conference registration ends next Friday 7 August 2015.

Palliative Care Awards—closing soon

Nominations close for inaugural Palliative Care Australia National Awards 2015 this Friday 31 July 2015.

The awards recognise innovation, teamwork and emerging talent in the palliative care sector and the efforts of those who support and care for people who are dying.

The winners due to be announced at the conference's Gala Dinner on Thursday 3 September 2015.

For more information click [here](#).



eHospice Australia:

Featured in eHospice this week:

- [Exploring demand for palliative care services on NSW mid-north coast](#)
- [Choosing Wisely attaining critical mass](#)
- [September opening for Calvary's Wagga Wagga palliative care unit](#)



Professor David Currow

Decision Assist—free workshops

Home care package and residential aged care workshops for Western Australia were announced this week. They will run in August and interested residential aged care and community care workers can register here.

[These workshops](#) are free and available around the country.



Workshop/Events

Spiritual care conference:

Cittamani Hospice Service – Spiritual Care: bringing a calm and compassionate mind to the care of the dying

Date: Friday 25 September 2015

Time: 8.30am – 4.30pm

Where: Twin Waters Resort, Twin Waters Queensland

Cost: \$120.00 concession: \$80.00

Register: noela.cittamani@gmail.com

News Briefs

National Carer Awards now open

Nominations close Sunday 6 September 2015, winners announced in February 2016.

Four categories: young carer aged under 26 years, foster and kinship carer; family carers; and caring in the country. Eligible carers must provide unpaid care and support to someone who has a disability, mental illness, chronic condition, acquired brain injury, degenerative or terminal illness or who are frail aged; or be a registered/approved foster or kinship carer.

www.carerawards.com.au

Study questions effect of palliative chemotherapy for patients near death

Chemotherapy in the final week of life did not benefit cancer patients, and appeared most harmful in those people with good performance status, a recent [Center for Research on End-of-Life Care study](#) found.

Former PCA President, Professor David Currow honoured

Professor Currow has won the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care for 2015.

The award, made by Clinical Oncology Society of Australia, recognises a national leader who has made a significant contribution to cancer care.

Decision Assist Aged Care Channel TV Event

The program was very successful, with a number of people registered to watch. To view it: click [here](#).