

# E-News



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIA

16 July 2015

## From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) hosted a meeting with our Member Organisations this week. The group evaluated the success of this year's National Palliative Care Week and began planning for World Hospice day events to be held on 10 October 2015. A communications working group has been formed and will be chaired by Palliative Care NSW.

On Tuesday I met with PCA President Patsy Yates in Brisbane. It was a great opportunity to meet PEPA and PCC4U staff working with Professor Yates.

This week PCA also hosted the Close the Gap Steering Committee working group. The meeting considered examples of flexible policy aspirations, such as joined up government and other policy initiatives, that have been successful. There was a great deal of discussion about leveraging existing data linkages to provide improved communication issues to government. The discussion was instructive as understanding attitudes, beliefs and practices can translate into the palliative care space.

I have focused my attention on two reviews being undertaken by the Australian Government: the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) review and the Primary Health Care review.

## PCA and Disability Forum

PCA is joining with the A.C.T. Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) to provide a forum on disability and palliative care. PCA has brought together a number of speakers with personal and professional interest in the area. Michael Chapman will offer an introduction to palliative care and Jane Beaumont will outline the position from the perspective of the National Disability Insurance Agency. Lunch will be provided on arrival.

**When:** 1:00pm—4:00pm Thursday 23 July 2015

**Where:** Canberra Museum and Gallery Theatre, Cnr London Circuit and Civic Square, Canberra City ACT

**Cost:** FREE

**Register:** [heidi@palliativecare.org.au](mailto:heidi@palliativecare.org.au)

**For more information:** (02) 6163 8408 or email [heidi@palliativecare.org.au](mailto:heidi@palliativecare.org.au)



The [MBS review](#) aims to evaluate over 5700 items. Most of these items have not been amended since created more than 30 years ago. The MBS Taskforce will release a discussion paper in September 2015, inviting submissions for a final report due in December 2016.

In relation to primary health care the [Primary Health Care Advisory Group](#), led by former AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton, will investigate options to provide:

- better care for people with complex and chronic illness
- innovative care and funding models
- better recognition and treatment of mental health conditions
- greater connection between primary health care and hospital care

A discussion paper will be released inviting submissions. Palliative care and access to palliative care is one of the specific issues both reviews will consider.

## Conference Update

International keynote speaker [Dr Christian Sinclair](#) will be discussing the following throughout the conference:

### 4:45pm—5:15pm Wednesday 2 September:

Social Media as Public Health—Low-cost digital publishing tools, cross-pollination of ideas, and ease of sharing across multiple media platforms make social media a great tool to help shape the public perception about hospice, palliative care, opioids, dying, grief, and many other aspects of daily practice.

### 11:00am—11:45am Thursday 3 September:

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Online: moving from clutter and confusion to chatter and curation. There is more great content online about hospice and palliative medicine than ever before. This session will highlight numerous ways delegates can find great information, curate it, and turn it into an dynamic educational resource.

Remember to [register](#) for the conference to see attend these great sessions. For more information [click here](#).



## Understanding Palliative Care Resource

The Cancer Council have launched a palliative care resource called Understanding Palliative Care. The resource is available for download on the [Cancer Council website](#). The booklet is a guide for people with cancer, their families and friends covering topics such as the role of palliative care, the palliative care team, key questions to ask and support for young people. The booklet is useful for anyone living with any type of terminal cancer. Palliative care can be daunting for some people so this booklet aims to break down the barrier so patients, carers and family are able to have an open discussion with health professionals and each other about palliative care treatment options.



## Workshop/Events

### EVENT—National Pain Week 2015

**Theme:** Pain...let's talk about it

**When:** 20—26 July 2015

**More information:** [www.nationalpainweek.org.au](http://www.nationalpainweek.org.au)

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS—FECCA Conference

**What:** The organising committee invites authors to submit abstracts for presentation within the program.

Submissions are sought for oral presentations and can be made via the Abstract Submission Portal.

**Deadline:** 3 August 2015

**To submit an abstract** [click here](#)

**More information:** <http://www.2015fecca.com/abstracts.php>

### GRANTS— National Industry Scholarship Grant Initiative

**What:** From July 1st 2015 the initiative will provide women in the health care sector with grants for leadership development.

**To apply:** [click here](#)

**More information:** [Shreya Aggarwal](#) (email) or call 03 9270 9000

### MEETING—Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

**When:** 13 – 17 October 2015

**Where:** Intercontinental – Wellington, New Zealand

**Registrations:** Early Bird due by 31 July 2015

**More information:** Visit the [website](#)



## eHospice Australia:

### Featured in eHospice this week:

- [Dying to Know Day - 8 August](#)
- [Wedgetail Retreat in demand in northern NSW](#)
- [Delirium symptom management poster wins top US clinical trials award](#)
- [IPCN Conference - abstract deadline approaches](#)

## Decision Assist ACC TV Event

Decision Assist is hosting a free special 30 min television event on palliative care support on aged care on 29 July 2015. This program is suitable for Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, experienced aged care staff, Case Managers, GPs, and allied health professionals working for providers of residential aged care and home care packages.



**When:** 2:15—2:25PM AEST Wednesday 29 July 2015

**Cost:** FREE

**Register:** <http://www.acctv.co/au/decisionassist/>

To view the trailer [click here](#)



## News Briefs

**Talking about dying won't kill you, Palliative Care Australia says**—Jean Kittson's article on Palliative Care Australia's campaign "Dying to talk; talking about dying won't kill you". To read the full article [click here](#)

**More Nurses, Better Outcomes for Patients** —The Palaszczuk Government will invest \$212.3m over four years in nursing workforce initiatives to improve patient safety and healthcare in QLD. Over 400 Nurse Navigators will help patients navigate an increasingly complex health system by focusing on the patient's entire healthcare journey. To read the full media release [click here](#)

**Traps for the dying in easier super access**—An article about financial planning calculations made based on an estimation of the date of your death. To read the full article [click here](#)

**Masks on for cancer treatment charity ball**—Lower Clarence Charity Masked Ball is raising money for the renovation of the Maclean palliative care unit. To read the full article [click here](#)

**Intensive Care: Decision-Making for the Critically Ill**—An article looking at when and how does an intensive care doctor stop treatment on a critically ill patient. To read the full article [click here](#)

**Three Things Cancer Taught Me At 28**—A woman's advice after being diagnosed with cancer in her late 20s. To read the full article [click here](#)