

# E-News



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIA

23 July 2015

## From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) welcomed its new National Policy Manger, Philippa Kirkpatrick to the team this week. Ms Kirkpatrick comes to us from the National Blood Authority where she was responsible for working with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to supply blood across Australia. She has a background in science and has broad experience in health having previously worked in clinical research. Philippa will work across the PCA brief and will no doubt make a considerable contribution to the national policy discussion on palliative care. Expect to hear more from her as she settles into her new role.

The Disability Forum was held this week, the first of four community engagement events PCA will be holding around the country for different community groups. Today's forum provided information about palliative care to carers and people with a disability to raise awareness about advance care planning and how to access care. The fora provide a great opportunity to build awareness and understanding across a number of communities and to inform the work PCA does, particularly amongst diverse groups.

The Inaugural Palliative Care Australia National Awards close at the end of next week (31 July 2015). There are four categories of awards, with two for organisations and two for individuals. The awards recognise innovation, research and leadership across our sector, one that often goes unacknowledged. If you know a team or a person making a difference in palliative care who should get a pat on the back and a national award, nominate them here: <http://palliativecare.org.au/awards/>

This week Decision Assist has both a Communications Group and an EPG meeting in Sydney. The project is now just under 12 months away from completion and all systems go.

There are a number of workshops for residential aged care facilities and home care package workers running across the country – follow [this link](#) for more information about courses in your area

A number of aspects of the project will be explored on an Aged Care Channel television event on Wednesday 27 July at 2.15pm. You can sign up to watch the broadcast here and I encourage you to do so: [click here](#)

We are now about six weeks away from the 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference in Melbourne (1-4 September). The PCA Events team is working hard to deliver a great conference with a broad program of work being presented, you can find program details [here](#):

Remember, standard registration closes in the first week of August (7 August 2015).

## Jean Kittson to MC conference

Well known and loved Australian author, comedian and television personality Jean Kittson, will again take to the stage as Master of Ceremonies for the 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference.

Ms Kittson has had a long association with palliative care and is the Patron of Palliative Care Nurses Australia.

She also participated in the Palliative Care Australia 'Dying to Talk' campaign that launched National Palliative Care Week.

Ms Kittson wrote an article on preparing for dying and the need for Australians to talk about their wishes in a recent opinion piece for Fairfax [click here](#) to read it.



## Aged care portal released

All Home Care providers can now claim online using Aged Care Online Services, the Department of Human Services (DHS) reports.

The system has been piloted around the country with positive feedback from providers.

Aged Care Online can be used to submit forms for entry; departure; hours of service; leave; location; transfer of level and bulk hours of service. The online system will enable real time access to service and care recipient information and a more efficient claiming process.

To register for Aged Care Online Services go to: online claiming for aged care on the DSS website [click here to access](#) the site.

If you are already registered you can log on using the same user ID and password [here](#).

## News Briefs

### Survey :

Home Instead is running a survey to form the basis of an education booklet to help people die at home. The survey will run until the end of next week (31 July 2015).

Please find the [link here](#)

### Wingham community want a hospice:

The Wingham Chronicle this week reported on a community push for palliative care services in the area noting the increasing numbers of residents and their carers who could benefit from increased access to care.

[Click here.](#)

### Registered Nurses in aged care:

The debate on Registered Nurses in Residential Aged Care Facilities continues in this week's Illawarra Mercury.

[Click here.](#)

### Aged Care Channel: free event

Decision Assist is hosting a free 30 minute television event on the Aged Care Channel next Wednesday 29 July 2015 at 2.15pm.

To register: [click here](#)

View the trailer: [click here](#).

### US trial Care Choices program

USA to trial a new program to get patients into hospice and palliative care sooner. It also hopes to better understand why fewer than half of Medicare patients enrol in hospice.

[Click here.](#)

### Winning the war on cancer

Cancer death rates in Australia are falling, with increased screening and improved medications identified as the reason for the success.

[Click here.](#)

## Decision Assist

Free workshops are being held around the country to help residential aged care and home care package workers improve their skills in raising the topic and talking about palliative care, death and dying with the people they care for.



The courses are hands on and provide practical advice to improve skills and level of comfort in raising challenging topics. There is a course in your state or territory and can be [found here](#). For additional information you can contact the team at: [agedcaretraining@austin.org.au](mailto:agedcaretraining@austin.org.au).

Calling all GPs who have participated in the Decision Assist GP Palliative Care Workshops or online module: have you completed your clinical audit? The audit earns points in both the ACRRM and RACGP programs. RACGP: 40 Cat 1 QI and CPD points and ACRRM 30 PRPD points. For more information contact Karen Cooper: [karencooper.anzspm@bigpond.com](mailto:karencooper.anzspm@bigpond.com).

If you are interested in participating in the workshops the next available can be found [here](#).

## Awards—nominate now

### Palliative Care Australia National Awards 2015

The inaugural national awards, aimed at recognising innovation, teamwork and emerging talent in the palliative care sector, are now open.

Awards are open for both individual and team awards.

Nominate [here](#)

Awards close Friday, 31 July 2015 and will be announced at the Conference Gala Dinner 3 September 2015.

## Workshop/Events

The Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE) course: 'Palliative Care Nursing in Various Contexts' for the RN with an interest but limited experience in palliative care. A 13 week online fee paying course is available through QUT Continuing Professional Education.

**Dates:** 10 August to 15 November 2015

The QUT CPE page with further details and registration information is: <https://www.qut.edu.au/study/short-courses-and-professional-development/short-courses/palliative-care-nursing-in-various-contexts>



**eHospice Australia:**

### Featured in eHospice this week:

- [Decision Assist workshops go nationwide](#)
- [Meeting the psychological needs of the chronically and terminally ill](#)
- [Education resources for pain management](#)