National Palliative Care Grant Recipients’ Forum

**7-8 April 2016 | Vibe Hotel, Canberra Airport**

**Project Information Form**

**Project Title:** Palliative care and advance care planning in general practice: a training package for practice nurses

**Project:** HammondCare Palliative and Supportive Care Service

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| **Key objectives** | The objectives are:   * To support practice nurses to efficiently and sensitively promote awareness of advanced care planning using screening; * To support practices nurses and general practices to identify patients who may benefit from a palliative approach; * To support practice nurses to screen patients who may benefit from a palliative care approach for their symptoms, caregiver burden, and most important questions and concerns regarding advance care planning and palliative care * To enable GPs to more efficiently address patients’ needs and concerns regarding palliative care and advanced care planning * To enable practice nurses and GPs to identify patients who might benefit from referral to specialist palliative and supportive care services. |
| **Key outcomes**  *(e.g. resource development, education and training)* | The following outcomes have been identified as the Target Outcomes:   * Online training *(designed to improve practice nurse (PN) confidence and capability in Advance Care Planning (ACP) and Palliative Care (PC) screening and assessments)* accessed and completed by practice nurses (PNs) – target numbers reached by due date * Participant workshops *(designed to improve PN confidence and capability in ACP/PC screening and assessments)* delivered – target numbers reached by due date * ACP/PC screening and assessments completed by PNs following online and/or face to face training – target numbers reached by due date * Train-the-trainer workshops (designed to enable Primary Health Networks to deliver the training package) delivered – target numbers reached by due date |
| **Target audience**  *(e.g. who is the target audience/s for your project activities?)* | Practice nurses in general practice.  Patients being reviewed in general practice as part of the >75 years health check, and patients >18 years who meet SPICTTM (or equivalent) criteria for a palliative approach and their caregivers  In addition, the practice nurse training and screening assessments aim to allow more efficient use of General Practitioner time in provision of palliative care and advance care planning, and result in more appropriate and timely referrals to specialist palliative care services, if required. |
| **Outcomes to date** | The project only started in mid February 2016. The initial milestones outlined in the Activity Work Plan have been met as outlined below.  Staff recruitment: Clinical backfill has been found for the project lead (A/Prof Josephine Clayton) to spend 20 hours per week on the project since 15th February 2016. A full time project coordinator (Jennifer Gavin) has been appointed and commenced on 4th April 2016. Recruitment for an evaluation officer is underway (applications close 6th April 2016). An admin assistant and part time palliative care nurse will be recruited in late April to commence in June 2016.  Toolkit development: A literature review of tools to support palliative care and advance care planning in general practice has been completed. The draft toolkit has been collated. Face-to-face meetings have been scheduled with key members of the advisory group to refine the toolkit in April (to be finalised by end April 2016).  The advisory and evaluation committees have been convened. Work has commenced on the evaluation protocol, website and video development. |
| **Challenges & lessons learnt**  *(e.g. were there any difficulties which may assist others?)* | The project has only just started. Not a challenge, but we would like to acknowledge the organisations and team members involved in the project:  ***HammondCare***: A/Prof Josephine Clayton (Project Lead, Palliative Care Physician and Associate Professor of Palliative Care), Dr Joel Rhee (General Practitioner and Senior Lecturer), Jennifer Gavin (Project coordinator)  ***Caresearch*** The Flinders University: A/Prof Jennifer Tierman (Director)  ***Department of Advance Care Planning, Austin Health***: Dr Karen Detering (Medical Lead)  ***University of Wollongong***: Professor Elizabeth Halcomb (Professor of Primary Healthcare Nursing)  ***University of Queensland***: Professor Geoffrey Mitchell (Professor of General Practice and Palliative Care)  ***University of Technology, Sydney***: Professor Jane Phillips (Professor of Palliative Care Nursing)  ***University of Sydney***: Associate Professor Rachael Morton (Director of Health Economics, Sydney Medical School) and Professor Tim Shaw (Director of Research in Implementation Science and eHealth, Faculty of Health Sciences) |
| **Plans for 2016 and 2017** | Specific activities include:   1. Development of an online toolkit for practice nurses (PNs) to facilitate patient and caregiver assessment regarding advance care planning (ACP) and palliative care (PC). This will enable PNs to:  * utilise an ACP screening instrument to patients undergoing routine, annual ≥75 years health checks, to assist with early consideration of ACP. A validated tool (SPICTTM) will also be applied to identify patients who may be suitable for a palliative approach. * assess patients aged ≥18 years (identified as having palliative care needs through the SPICTTM tool) using the ACP screening instrument, a symptom screening/assessment tool; a brief PC question-prompt list; a carer assessment tool; and a guide for determining which patients to refer to specialist PC services.  1. Development of an online training resource (including demonstration videos) for PNs to administer the screening/assessment tools and coach patients to identify important questions/concerns that they might wish to discuss with their GP. 2. Delivery of face-to-face workshops to complement the online training in each capital city. Scholarships will be made available for PNs from rural/remote settings to attend. One-on-one tele-mentoring for PNs from a PC nurse practitioner/CNC will be available. An optional in-depth course on ACP facilitation will also be available. 3. Development and delivery of an accompanying train-the-trainer package for delivery of the workshops and one-to-one mentoring program. These will be run locally through Primary Health Networks. 4. Development of a website created by and linked to Caresearch, which will make the online tools and training package nationally accessible.   In addition, the program will be evaluated to inform ongoing implementation. |