**National Palliative Care Grant Recipients’ Forum**

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

**Project Information Form**

**Project:** Palliative Care Training and Information Online Portal

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| **Key objectives** | * Address service provider skill development (frontline worker education and training) through the delivery of a comprehensive, innovative Palliative Care Training and Information Online Portal from 1 July 2015. * Provide a new location for the four modules for community based palliative aged care developed in 2012, as well as two new, self-paced modules on pain management and recognising the deteriorating patient. * Market and promote the portal so that by June 2017, 42,500 participants will have registered for the training. * Conduct a longitudinal mixed methods research study around knowledge translation to identify the factors that help and hinder evidence-based palliative care and best support the frontline worker role. |
| **Key outcomes**  *(e.g. resource development, education and training)* | **Online education and resource development**   * Extensive consultation process with several thousand palliative care stakeholders to determine their palliative care training needs, and findings analysed to inform development of new modules. * Development of a comprehensive online palliative care information and training portal including a discussion forum, palliative care knowledge base, resource library, and six online training modules. * Development of two additional online skills modules following extensive stakeholder and community engagement to identify user needs and gaps in user knowledge and skills. This feedback resulted in training that provides additional knowledge of the key aspects of pain management, recognising and managing clients at the end of life phase, specific life-limiting diseases and conditions, and how to ensure client comfort. * Map training to units of competency and obtain endorsement for Continuous Professional Development. |
| **Target audience**  *(e.g. who is the target audience/s for your project activities?)* | The target audience is frontline palliative care workers, predominantly those working with older persons in the community  Audience breakdown to date:   * Registered nurses 30% * Care workers 22% * Participants predominantly work in residential care (39%), followed by community care (22%) * Metropolitan 46% and rural/regional 47% * Volunteers, students, carers represent a significant group of participants |
| **Outcomes to date** | * Over 27,000 people have registered for the training – approximately 5,000 per six-month period. * Participant feedback indicates that the following features of the training are rated particularly highly by participants: * Self-paced * No cost to participants * Able to be completed at time and place of participant’s choosing * Suitable for all members of the multidisciplinary team * Features case-based scenarios that participants can apply to their own context or setting * A model to provide learners with certificate evidence of completion is incorporated into the module production. This model seeks to accommodate the methodology of encouraging participation through a non-prescriptive non-linear learning approach. As such, learners can commence and complete modules in any order, and receive certification evidence per module based on them satisfying the individual module requirements. This supports learners being able to self-select the modules they feel are most relevant and beneficial to their practice and provides learners with evidence to support their continuing professional development. * The modules are mapped against the specified nationally recognised units of competency and a set of supporting documentation has been included in the modules to assist learners in pursuing this outcome. These modules have been mapped against 4 units of competency in the nationally recognised Australian Qualifications Framework. * The AHHA has established strong, productive partnerships with many health organisations which were initiated during the first COMPAC Guidelines online training project, during the COMPAC face-to-face workshops in Tasmania and through the AHHA’s extensive member networks. The consultation and collaboration plan for this project has built on this foundation to enhance uptake and promotion of the portal amongst these groups and their networks and to establish new relationships with relevant stakeholder groups. |
| **Challenges & lessons learnt**  *(e.g. were there any difficulties which may assist others?)* | Ongoing challenge is the recruitment of the high number of participants required to meet performance targets. The target goal of 5,000 new participants per six month period, and a total of over 40,000 over the life of the palliative care online projects represents a considerable challenge.  Performance targets have been met to date but it is possible that the volume of new users may diminish as more people in the target groups complete the training.  Reaching all areas of the target audience can be challenging – eg communicating directly with frontline care workers. Alliances and networking with other peak bodies within the health and education sectors has been beneficial. |
| **Plans for 2016 and 2017** | * Continue marketing and promotion to achieve performance targets * Conduct longitudinal research study – engage with policymakers, researchers, practitioners, consumers and carers, and share key findings and lessons learned. * Outputs will include: * research report * executive summary * an article in a periodical published by a relevant peak body * an article submitted to a peer-reviewed academic journal * research findings presented at a relevant conferences * roundtable hosted by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association * Promote range of educational resources to a wider audience * Foster partnerships with other organisations in the sector to maximise cross-promotional opportunities. |