National Palliative Care Grant Recipients’ Forum

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

**Project Information Form**

**Project:** Palliative Care Australia

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| **Key objectives** | Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is the national peak body for palliative care committed to achieving quality palliative care for all. PCA represents all those who work towards high quality palliative and end of life care in Australia.PCA’s activities are focused on:* Empowering the community to assist people with life-limiting illnesses.
* Building capacity for health professionals to provide care and support.
* Leading and informing the policy agenda for palliative care in Australia.
* Strengthening collaborations and partnerships that serve to meet the needs of patients, their carers and families.
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| **Key outcomes***(e.g. resource development, education and training)* | Policy development* Contributing to the development and implementation of the Australian Government’s palliative care policy
* Contributing to the development and dissemination of policy papers, submissions and research relevant to the Australian palliative care sector

Consultation and collaboration* Developing and maintaining effective mechanisms for consultation with the palliative care sector and the wider community
* Establishing collaborative links with professional organisations to foster a highly skilled palliative care workforce
* Developing and maintaining collaborative relationships including with other peak bodies to work on end-of-life issues

Communication, information development and dissemination* Promotion of an increased awareness of palliative care in Australia, including through web-based publications, a comprehensive communication strategy targeting the wider Australian community, maintaining a website including the National Palliative Care Service Directory and promoting its use tot the community, NPCW and biennial conference

National Palliative Care Standards Program |
| **Target audience** | * People with life-limiting illnesses, their carers and families
* The palliative care, and broader health workforce
* The wider Australian community
* Members of Parliament (MPs) and policymakers
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| **Outcomes to date** | Policy development* 12 submissions to government

Consultation and collaboration* Joint position papers including on LGBTI
* Developed consumer engagement strategy with the Consumers Health Forum
* Worked with the IAHA and CATSINaM to conduct a workshop on the provision of cultually sensitive palliative care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
* Engagement through Steering Committees and other groups, including on the Close the Gap Steering Committee and the National Aged Care Alliance

Communication, information development and dissemination* Website rebrand
* 61 media releases
* Community forums including on palliative care issues for LBGTI, disability and diverse communities
* National Palliative Care conference
* 4 parliamentary lunchboxes per year
* Tweetchats in collaboration with Palliverse
* eHospice

National Palliative Care Standards Program* NSAP program with 37 self-assessment cycles completed in 2015, adding to the total of 297 cycles completed overall
* Published Annual Report describing results and participation since 2010
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| **Challenges & lessons learnt** | * Breaking down perceptions about what palliative care is – learning to work from wherever the target audience is at
* Increasing focus on euthanasia – trying to take opportunity of increased focus by the community on end-of-life
* Ensuring that our activities are not duplicating others in the sector (except where such duplication adds to effectiveness)
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| **Plans for 2016 and 2017** | Policy Development* Blueprint and election platform for palliative care and end-of-life care
* Value of Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care report drafted and will be released

Consultation and collaboration* Increased focus on paediatric palliative care
* Fact sheets to support delivery of high quality end-of-life care by acute services

Communication, information development and dissemination* Focus on palliative care and end-of-life care for people with chronic, life-limiting illnesses (this is the focus of National Palliative Care Week)
* Difficult Discussions document - to support people reflect and talk about end-of-life care
* Art competition and exhibition with the theme ‘Life and Death’
* Transition of eHospice to a blog on the PCA website

National Palliative Care Standards Program* Revision of National Palliative Care Standards
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