National Palliative Care Grant Recipients’ Forum

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

**Project Information Form**

**Project:** Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative

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| **Key objectives** | To apply a collaborative, whole-of-workforce approach to build the capability and capacity of the health workforce to provide quality palliative care to all Australians. The project takes a strategic and evidence based approach to education and training of the health workforce, by aligning project activities to a whole-of-workforce Palliative Care Workforce Development Model. |
| **Key outcomes***(e.g. resource development, education and training)* | 1. Delivery of education and training programs through ***the Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA)***. PEPA aims to enhance the capacity of health professionals to deliver palliative care education through participation in clinical placements in specialist palliative care services or interactive workshops. 2. Building capacity in the health workforce by strengthening integration of palliative care curriculum resources in courses that prepare health care providers for entry to practice (University and Vocational Education and Training Sector), (***Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates Project (PCC4U))***. 3. Development of a whole-of-workforce ***Palliative Care Workforce Development Model*** that will be implemented through an Education and Training hub focused on advancing learning and teaching for all health care providers in palliative care. |
| **Target audience***(e.g. who is the target audience/s for your project activities?)* | The project targets:* All health care providers who interact with people who are dying
* Education providers across health service and education and training sectors
* Health service managers and health service planners who have responsibilities for ensuring their health workforce has the capacity and capability to meet end of life care needs

Specific target groups for PEPA include all health care providers across primary, secondary and tertiary settings who are involved in the care of people at end of life. Professional skills development and mentoring opportunities are provided for specialist palliative care health professionals. PEPA has placement and workshop opportunities specifically tailored to the needs of aged care workers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care providers.Specific target groups for PCC4U include all health professionals involved in: undergraduate and relevant post-graduate health courses in the University sector; health and aged care related courses in the Vocational Education and Training Sector and continuing professional education for health and aged care providers.  |
| **Outcomes to date** | PEPA: Between 2003 and 2015, PEPA has facilitated 3,707 placements and delivered workshops for 22,802 participants.This includes participation of 320 and 1327 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care providers in placements and workshops respectively. Sustained increase in knowledge and confidence post PEPA placement has been demonstrated through rigorous evaluation activities.PCC4U: In December 2015, 73% of entry to practice courses are implementing or reviewing the PCC4U learning resources, with evidence of widespread adoption of the PCC4U capabilities.Palliative Care Workforce Development Framework: A draft framework has been prepared following a range of consultative activities and evidence reviews. The Education and Training Hub on CareSearch is in development, expected for release in May 2016. |
| **Challenges & lessons learnt***(e.g. were there any difficulties which may assist others?)* | Lessons:* The use of experiential and evidence based approaches to learning and teaching has resulted in sustained increases in knowledge, skills and confidence of health care providers, and high levels of engagement of the academic sector.
* Effective engagement with and tailoring of programs specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has resulted in high uptake and positive outcomes for the community.
* A structured engagement and implementation strategy has resulted in high levels of uptake within the higher education sector.
* Defining clear expectations of capability of various components of the health workforce is important to ensuring appropriate and sustainable outcomes.

Challenges:* Enabling the health workforce to navigate the range of learning and teaching initiatives in palliative care
* Promoting the importance of palliative care education for the whole of workforce
* Lack of coordinated efforts amongst providers of palliative care education and training
* Crowded undergraduate curricula requiring ongoing need for prioritising palliative care education in undergraduate courses
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| **Plans for 2016 and 2017** | PEPA will continue to emphasise experiential learning opportunities, complementing this with the use of new technologies for program delivery, including providing interactive webinars and real time learning opportunities to promote the transfer of learning. PCC4U activities will focus on increasing and sustaining implementation of the PCC4U learning resources in all health courses, with an emphasis on allied health courses, and extending PCC4U to ensure uptake by relevant programs in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Sector.The Palliative Care Workforce Development Framework will be promoted widely. The Palliative Care Education and Training hub will be launched. Our goal is to work in collaboration with all those with an interest in palliative care education to ensure high quality education and training opportunities are provided in a coordinated and effective manner.  |