

E-News



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

21 May 2015

From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

It is now only three days until [National Palliative Care Week](#) begins. We are gearing up for the busy week we have. We are especially excited to present our free [trivia nights](#) across most capital cities in Australia on Friday 29 May at 7pm. We have already had a lot of interest from those within the sector and the community who just love trivia. In Canberra, we're looking forward to a great night of fun to start talking about dying.

Tomorrow Palliative Care Australia (PCA) are filming [Caitlin Doughty](#) a mortician based in the USA. Her presence on [Q and A](#) last Monday got Australians tweeting about the importance of death and dying. We are looking forward to hearing her thoughts.

This week I have attended a number of important meetings around the country. On Monday and Tuesday I was in Melbourne at the [National Aged Care Alliance](#) meeting. It was an informative meeting and I look forward to continuing to put palliative care's voice on the table in relation to aged care reforms. While in Melbourne I met with representatives from the [Lowitja Institute](#) and from [Palliative Care Victoria](#).

Yesterday I travelled to Alice Springs as a guest of [Palliative Care NT](#) and presented this morning to the those gathered for the one day conference Valuing the Past Shaping the Future – 20 years on. It was a great privilege to attend and to hear the many stories the palliative care sector told about service delivery in places like Alice Springs and the surrounding country. Most striking was listening to [Andrea Mason](#) from the NPY Women's Council who spoke about the importance of the role of Sorrow Malpas in end-of-life care.

PCA commented on National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)'s dementia practice guidelines which were released for consultation. See the article to the right on for more information. Congratulations to Peter Jenkin who won our online bucket list competition last week. On the top of his bucket list is to take three months to [ride a motorbike from London to Magadan in Siberia](#). We hope he is able to achieve this one day. This week's online competition: [What 5 words will be on your tombstone?](#) Competition closes tomorrow 5pm AEST so get in quick to win the second last \$50 apple gift card.



Policy Update

PCA comments on Clinical Practice Guidelines for Dementia in Australia

The first guidelines on the diagnosis and management of dementia in Australia were released for public consultation. The NHMRC Partnership on Dealing with Dementia and Related Functional Decline in Older People developed the draft clinical practice guidelines for dementia in Australia in consultation with an expert multi-disciplinary committee. Palliative care is specifically included in the Guidelines.

PCA's comments noted that there should be recognition of bereavement support for families and carers as it is part of palliative care. This could be acknowledged by expanding on the definition included and list aspects of care from the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of palliative care. There needed to be a stronger recognition of advance care planning, advance care directives and where a person has a power of attorney in applying ethical and legal principles, including in making decision about withdrawing treatments such as artificial nutritional support and rehydration. Other comments noted that there needed to be acknowledgement that dementia is a terminal illness, and including palliative care in matters covered in undergraduate curricula regarding treatment of people with dementia.

The guidelines can be access on the University of Sydney website at <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/cdpc/dementia-guidelines.php>

Conferences/Seminars

SEMINAR—"Propagating Palliative Care in a developing country-Sri Lanka" By Dr Suharsha Kanathigoda

When: 6:00pm—8:00pm Thursday 28 May 2015

Where: National Portrait Gallery King Edward Terrace Parkes ACT 2601

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/propagating-palliative-care-in-a-developing-country-sri-lanka-tickets-16669417677>

More Information: 02 6273 9606 or email katrina@pallcareact.org.au

CONFERENCE—ANZSPM Medical and Surgical Update for Palliative Medicine

When: 19–20 June 2015

Where: Melbourne, VIC

RSVP: anzspm@willorganise.com.au or call 02 4973 6573

More information: www.anzspm.org.au/update2015

CONFERENCE—South Australia Palliative Care State Conference

When: 9am—5pm Friday 22 May 2015

Where: Wayville Showground, Goodwood Road, Adelaide, SA

Cost: \$100 (full price registration) \$50 (Concession)

Keynote Speakers: Merryn Gott, Professor of Health Sciences and Nursing, University of Auckland. Dr Frank Brennan, Palliative Care Specialist St George and Calvary Hospitals.

RSVP: [Click here](#)

Program and more information: [Palliative Care SA Website](#)

INFORMATION EVENING—Hospice@Home for General Practitioners and all other Health Professionals

Queenstown: 6:00pm—9:00pm 16 June 2015

St Helens: 6:00pm—9:00pm 18 June 2015

For more information: kpendlebury@thedistrictnurses.org.au

COURSE—Developing a Volunteer Biography program

When: 9:30am—4:00pm Wednesday 24—Thursday 25 June 2015

Where: Eastern Palliative Care, Victoria

Cost: \$440 per person

For more information: Penelope Di Sario 1300 130 813 or email: epccip@epc.asn.au

News Briefs

Toowoomba Hospice Celebrates Palliative Care Week—

Toowoomba Hospice celebrate National Palliative Care Week and are introducing the hospice's new Director of Nursing with a breakfast at the Angel Cafe in South St. To read the full article [click here](#)

Poppy the poodle gives some comfort to the terminally ill and dying at Wantirna Health—

As part of National Palliative Care Week, Wantirna Health hosts Poppy the poodle prancing around the wards as part of a pet program for palliative care patients. To read the full article [click here](#)

How terminal patients are living without fear—

Sunshine Coast Specialist Palliative Care Service want to highlight the importance of conversations about end of life care in the lead up to National Palliative Care Week. To read the full article [click here](#)

Artist Flutter Lyon helping palliative care patients deal with death—

The 31-year-old Penrith artist is the brains behind Reflected Legacy, a pilot program that will capture stories and people's lives through ink-pressings at Liverpool Hospital's Palliative Care Unit. To read the full article [click here](#)

Nat Shines Light on End of Life—

Gold Coast-based Channel Nine TV personality Natalie Gruzlewski has accepted a role as ambassador to Tweed Palliative Support out of gratitude for the care the group provided to her late mother. To read the full article [click here](#)

Dying at home: Thousands of Victorians unable to receive community-based palliative care, while hospitals attract funding—

An insight into more than 15,000 Victorians receiving palliative care in their home and why 70% of palliative care funding is spent at hospital. To read the full article [click here](#)

Judi Dench Named Patron Of End Of Life Charity—

Dame Judi dench has been named Patron of UK charity: The National Council for Palliative Care. To read the full article [click here](#)



eHospice Australia:

Featured in eHospice this week:

- [Time out for Mother Bears](#)
- [Resthaven marks four-score years in South Australia](#)
- [NT palliative care service hits the big two-oh](#)

