

E-News



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

8 May 2015

From the CEO

It is now less than three weeks to the start of National Palliative Care Week (NPCW) – commencing Sunday 24 May. During the week there will be a series of national events. The Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove will plant a pine seedling, its lineage dating back to the famous Gallipoli battle of Lone Pine, at Canberra's Clare Holland House. Sir Peter will have morning tea with hospice staff, volunteers and in-patients.

There is more NPCW information on the Palliative Care Australia (PCA) [website](#), including downloadable posters and Facebook and Twitter images, which we encourage you to use during the week. Our remit for 2015 is to reach out to the Australian community to engage in a conversation about dying – one we know families often have too late. We are grateful for the huge contribution of volunteers and palliative care workers to the week's success. Please let us know about your events and activities so we can feature them on the website and through social media.

The 13th Australian Palliative Care Conference – Fit for the Future – will be held in a little over three months. This week I visited Melbourne with PCA Conference Manager Gretchen Irvine where we met conference sponsors, as well as members of the Department of Health and Human Services. Victoria is about to undertake the development of a new end of life care strategy and we discussed the potential to present some of the Department's ideas at our conference. With conference submissions closed, work now begins on a review by the scientific committee of more than 320 abstracts. Organisers are pleased that this exceeds the number submitted for the 2013 conference; the committee anticipates an interesting, challenging program. Early bird registration is open until 29 May.

Good news on superannuation

PCA has welcomed the government's announcement of its intention to amend legislation relating to life expectancy requirements for terminally ill people seeking access to their superannuation. The recommendation to extend the requirement from 12 to 24 months would be a relief to thousands of Australians facing a terminal illness. The status quo had caused many people at their most vulnerable considerable stress and concern.

Toward greater awareness

PCA interviewed well-known comedian, performer and writer Jean Kittson—a staunch palliative care advocate—for our awareness campaign this week.



Getting the word out on social media

Your response to our social media campaign promoting NPCW is exceeding expectations. The competition encouraging Aussies to name the dinosaurs on our NPCW posters was a great success. Keep visiting our [Facebook](#) page for more competitions in the lead up to NPCW.

Yours quizzically—trivia challenge

PCA is holding free Celebrate Life, Talk About Death trivia nights around Australia for National Palliative Care Week. They will be held on Friday, 29 May at 7:00pm. The trivia nights will be entertaining events designed to help raise awareness of palliative care in a fun environment. With events confirmed for several state capitals, you need to keep your eye out on PCA's Facebook page for more news.

Carers Australia / PCA workshops

Carers Australia and PCA are offering training to support carers of palliative care patients

Carers Australia, in collaboration with Palliative Care Australia (PCA), is delivering training for workers who support carers of palliative care patients. The objective of the two-day workshops is to increase the knowledge and skills of counsellors and other health professionals working with carers who are caring for someone in palliative care.

Day One will be for counsellors and others who are working with carers who are caring for someone in palliative care. Day Two will draw on PCA's networks and is designed for other health and community sector professionals working with carers who are caring for someone in palliative care. Certificates of Attendance will be provided to participants and may count towards professional development points.

The dates and locations for the workshops are:

Perth—Tues 19 May 9am-3.30pm & Wed 20 May 9am-3.30pm, Bethesda Hospital Seminar Room, 25 Queenslea Drive, Claremont
RSVP rosie.barton@carerswa.asn.au or (08) 9228 7427 by 15 May 2015

- Canberra Tues 7 & Wed 8 July
- Alice Springs Mon 20 & Tues 21 July
- Darwin Thurs 23 & Fri 24 July
- Melbourne Tues 8 & Wed 9 Sept
- Hobart Tues 22 & Wed 23 Sept
- Brisbane Mon 2 & Tues 3 November
- Townsville Thurs 5 & Fri 6 November
- Sydney Tues 1 & Wed 2 December
- Adelaide Tues 16 & Wed 17 Feb 2016

The venue and RSVP details for the workshops (other than Perth) will be advertised in future PCA e-bulletins and through PCA networks. You can also contact the Carers association in your state or territory closer to the date for the venue details.

Briefs

Time for GPs to become more proactive in managing end-of-life care

Brisbane-based palliative care specialist Professor Liz Reymond says doctors need to get over their hesitancy in dealing with the terminally ill and suggests they refer to a new clinical framework devised around three end-of-life prognostic trajectories. To read more [click here](#)

US report says most doctors have their own Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order

Possibly up to 90 per cent of doctors in the US wouldn't want to be resuscitated if they were near death. This article explores the ethical dilemma where those same doctors go to extreme lengths to prolong the lives of terminally ill patients who don't have a DNR order. To read more [click here](#)



The latest edition of Decision Assist's Augment: Evidence Update is now available. Produced quarterly, Augment highlights recent literature and web resources relevant to palliative care in residential and community aged care.

This [edition](#) looks at a retrospective study of how hospitalisations at the end-of-life could have been avoided. A review by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) compiles and identifies gaps in research on older Australians of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



Featured in ehospice this week:

- [Nepean Blue Mountains Health keeps the tradition alive](#)
- [Wise choice all round](#)

Palliative Care: Fit for the Future UPDATE

An event not to be missed – the 13th Australian Palliative Care Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre 1 – 4 September

For conference registration prices – [click here](#) – early bird concessions apply until 29 May.

For keynote speakers – [click here](#)

Sponsorship and exhibition information – [click here](#)

