

Opportunities to up-skill online for free!

Palliative Care Online Training is funded by the Department of Social Services and is aimed at helping health professionals provide palliative care to aged persons in the community. To register go to: www.palliativecareonline.com.au

Interested in learning more about dementia?

The University of Tasmania's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), *Understanding Dementia*, is an 11-week online course that builds upon the latest in international research on dementia. It's free and anyone can register. www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia

CareSearch has an [online dementia resource](#) that is palliative care related and well supported by evidence. When you complete the training, you will be able to print off a certificate for your records. At the conclusion, participants can print off a certificate as a record of completion <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/2266/Default.aspx> - this is the link to register for CareSearch Newsletter

Alzheimers Australia have new [online resources](#) for recognising dementia. This training is relevant to any staff and particularly useful for carers.

Alzheimers Australia has a new website on advance care planning called "[Start 2 Talk](#)" that is well worth checking out.

Death and Dying What are your arrangements for funeral directors when it comes to transporting a resident who is leaving the facility? This podcast was made by a funeral director and is on the Palliative Care Victoria's website. [Click here](#) to listen.

Here is the pdf of the latest newsletter from the National Rollout of the Palliative Approach Toolkit for RACF's project which features a new clinical newsletter and their first webinar. I have also provided the link if you would like to access previous newsletters www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit



Toolkit_Newsletter_]
2014...

Thank you for your continued
Support in attending the Palliative
Approach workshops. Myra

All enquiries related to this newsletter to:
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Next newsletter - September, 2014



Palliative Approach to Care Newsletter

[Welcome to issue No. 7 of the Palliative Approach to Care Newsletter](#)

[for the Aged and Disability Services Sectors](#)

[Here is a brief update on what's been happening in the palliative approach education world!](#)

Link Nurse Programs

So far this year we have held two link nurse programs, one in Geelong and the other in Colac with over 35 nurses attending. Both programs were well received, everyone interacted well, shared experiences and offered advice to each other. The ability to network is always received well.

Due to the demand for these workshops a further three are planned for the year, two in Geelong and one in Colac .

The education on day one focuses on the PA Toolkit and the key processes essential for delivering a palliative approach. Day two focuses on the clinical care of common symptoms people experience at the end of life.

The feedback from these link nurse programs has been very positive, staff who have attended report they feel more knowledgeable and confident in providing a palliative approach and end of life care. I'd like to share feedback received from Megan Holmes, ACFI/Clinical Coordinator from Ann Nichol House Aged Care Facility in Portarlington who attended the very first Link Nurse Program in 2012 and also attended the re-grouping of 2012 and 2013 Link Nurses in Colac on 25th March this year.

"It was lovely to catch up with all the Pall Link nurses yesterday in Colac and you and Heather. It was an excellent session and I would like to thank you for your support from the inception of the program and assisting us to ensure we employ best practice for all our palliative clients".

Thank you for your lovely feedback Megan. It is great to be able to support everyone who attends the Palliative Approach workshops in delivering evidence based palliative care.

[A Palliative Approach to Care workshop for personal care workers in residential and community aged care and disability services staff.](#)

These workshops are proving to be very popular with personal care workers in aged care and staff working with people with a disability. Each workshop is booked out very quickly so it is best to register as soon as possible if you would like to attend. All attendees have been so enthusiastic about improving their knowledge and confidence in delivering care to their residents and clients. The workshops focus on a palliative approach, symptom assessment, non-pharmacological interventions and reporting processes to enable early identification and management of unrelieved symptoms, essential in a palliative approach.

[Individual Education to Disability Group Homes](#)

This year I have been requested to provide support and education for staff in several disability group homes in the Geelong region. These have been very well received, staff have been extremely friendly and open to discussions around death and dying including the emotional side of losing a client that you have worked with for many years. Ongoing support is offered as clients health deteriorate.

[Upcoming Education to date 2014](#)

[15th July/11th Aug](#) [Link Nurse Program—Geelong \(fully booked\)](#)

[30th July](#) [A palliative approach to care” workshop for PCW’s and Disability Services Staff, Colac.](#)

[20th Aug/17th Sept](#) [Link Nurse Program—Colac](#)

[9th Sept/15th Oct](#) [Link Nurse Program—Geelong \(fully booked\)](#)

[30th Sept](#) [A palliative approach to care for PCW’s & Disability Services Staff—Geelong](#)

[Date tba](#) [A workshop at Truffleduck later this year. Details will be announced at a later date.](#)

[Education Opportunities](#)

Here is a link to an Industry Feedback Alert on **effective communication** in the palliative care setting which will provide you with ways you can show support and demonstrate effective communication. <http://bit.ly/P63waj>

ehospice is a globally run news and information resource committed to bringing you the latest news, commentary and analysis from the world of hospice, palliative and end of life care. Aimed at anyone with a professional or personal interest in palliative care, ehospice offers a single point of access to intelligence and good practice from around the world, with the aim of helping to improve patient care globally. It brings together the expertise and experience of the global hospice and palliative care community, and helps reduce the isolation felt by many people receiving or providing end of life care. [short animated film](#) about ehospice.

Don't forget [CareSearch](#) is a fantastic resource for everyone working in RACF's. Check out the RAC Nurses Hub: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/2256/Default.aspx>

[Link to the Palliative Approach Toolkit - where you can download additional resources:](#)

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/CareSearch/tabid/2718/Default.aspx>

[Potential workshops for 2015](#)

Recently I sent out expressions of interest to all facility managers to see if there is any interest in supporting staff to attend half day workshops on the key processes in a palliative approach i.e. ACP, palliative care case conferences, end of life care pathways, staff education using the resources in the palliative approach toolkit, conducting audits to assist in identifying ways to improve end of life practice.

The aim of these workshops is to assist key staff in developing processes and to provide support with implementing the key processes in the RACF.

Ongoing support and commitment from management would be a pre requisite as well as allocating some time to staff for ongoing facilitation of processes. Whether these workshops go ahead or not will depend on the response received from managers— I'll keep you posted!

[Informal Education](#) (Please note it is expected that staff from your workplace will have previously attended the link nurse workshops prior to any facility specific education being provided).

A reminder that Myra is available to come to your facility and provide 1 hour informal education sessions on a palliative approach, end of life care, comfort and dignity, pain assessment and management, symptom management, Niki T34 syringe drivers, self care / grief, difficult conversations, palliative care case conferencing, advance care planning or any other education specific to a particular resident who may be deteriorating or in the terminal phase.