



Barwon South Western Region
Palliative Care

Season's Greetings!

*The Palliative Approach Newsletter
Issue 9 December 2014*

The Palliative Approach Newsletter is a newsletter aimed at enhancing communication across residential and community aged care and disability services that is relevant to all staff. Each quarter I provide an update on education that's been held and information on upcoming opportunities for professional development. I welcome your input to the newsletter, so if you would like to contribute to the Palliative Approach Newsletter, please email myra.mcrae@barwonhealth.org.au

Link Nurse Program

The Link Nurse Program just seems to get better each year. To date staff from thirty five out of forty RACF's have attended the programs. The workshops are free, catered for by Steampacket Foods, Geelong and are an ideal opportunity to network with staff from other facilities, receive up to date evidence based practice information on clinical care and on the key processes in a palliative approach. For some this is a great opportunity to update knowledge on current trends and to utilize this knowledge in supporting their colleagues. For others who may be relatively new to their role it provides fantastic tools, ideas and strategies to improve their skillset and provide better outcomes for their residents.

Since July there has been four Link Nurse Programs held in Geelong and in Colac. There were three 'Palliative Approach 4 PCWs' workshops held in Geelong and Colac and a PEPA funded workshop in October presented by Alzheimers Australia and Nurse Practitioner Regina Kendall. All workshops were booked out very quickly this year again and the feedback continues to be very positive. This tells me I am on the right track with the education program however, if anyone has any particular requests or additional feedback I would love to hear from you.

I am currently in the process of booking dates and venues for 2015 and flyers with registration details will be emailed to all facility managers/DONs, Link Nurses and PCW's early in the new year.

Invites will soon be sent out to all Link Nurses for a 'reuniting' morning in Geelong and Colac early in the new year. This provides all Link Nurses with opportunities to network with each other and share the positives and negatives of implementing a palliative approach in their workplace. We will also hold a short presentation on a topic of value so please keep a look out for the flyer if you are a current Link Nurse and would like to come along.

Workshops on the key processes of a palliative approach

Earlier this year we applied for a grant from Decision Assist to enable us to develop the education program further. The plan was to offer workshops on the three key processes of a palliative approach; palliative care case conferencing, advance care planning and end of life care pathways and other education opportunities. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our application so we are brainstorming ideas on how we can still deliver these workshops free of charge and will keep you posted.

Palliative Approach Toolkit Newsletter

Please see the link below for the latest 'National Palliative Approach Toolkit for Residential Aged Care Facilities' newsletter and a link to subscribe to future issues.

http://www.caresearch.com.au/Caresearch/Portals/0/PA-Toolkit/Newsletter/October_2014_Issue_5.pdf

Upcoming Education and Resources

Free dementia course online

I have just completed The University of Tasmania's Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and can highly recommend it to anyone working in aged care and disability services. This is a 9 week online course that builds upon the latest in international research on dementia. It is free and anyone can register so check out the dates for the next course in 2015.

For further information or to register visit: <http://www.utas.edu.au/wicking/wca/mooc>

New resource for Advanced Care Planning

At the GRPCC conference in Inverloch in October this year, Charlie Corke spoke about a new online resource for all people to try, that looks at advance care planning through assessing attitudes and values to scenarios. It is very new, so a few more modifications are expected, but please have a look and see what you think at

www.myvalues.org.au

Niki T34 Syringe Driver Training

REM Systems who supply the Niki T34 Syringe Drivers have a training DVD that can be purchased for \$10. I highly recommend the DVD to be utilized as a staff competency on a regular basis. It is easy to understand and has a trouble-shooting section which will definitely be helpful. If you would like to purchase the DVD please contact Linda Lanham Senior Territory Manager, REM Systems on 0413 119 944 or email: llanham@remsystems.com.au Linda or I will provide education on the Niki T34 free of charge on request.

P.S Just a reminder if you have any questions or would like support in providing a palliative approach please give me a call or email me if it is not urgent.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting and attending the workshops throughout 2014. I wish you and your families a wonderful, happy and safe festive season and look forward to working with you again in 2015!

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