



Barwon South Western Region  
Palliative Care

## *The Palliative Approach Newsletter* *March 2015 - Issue 10*

The Palliative Approach Newsletter is a newsletter aimed at enhancing communication across residential and community aged care and disability services that are 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](mailto:myra.mcrae@barwonhealth.org.au)

### Link Nurse Program for RNs, EENs and ENs

The Link Nurse Program is off to a flying start this year with two programs held in Geelong and Colac so far. A further four programs are scheduled for the remainder of 2015 with the potential for more depending on interest.

One day workshops for carers' in community and residential aged care and disability services have also been received well and a further six are scheduled throughout the coming year.

All education aimed at aged care and disability services are free to attend, and are catered for by Steampacket Foods, Geelong. These days 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.

### 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. [Clinical newsletter Issue 3 Nov. 2014 - Management of pain in residents requiring a palliative approach](#)

### The Autumn RAC Hub News from CareSearch [Printable pdf \(1.52MB\)](#)

### Upcoming Education and Resources

Dr. Caroline Murtagh is holding the first of four lectures on palliative care in Camperdown during 2015. The first lecture is being held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and is entitled 'Palliative Care - The Basics and More' and focuses on Pain Management in Palliative Patients (part 1) and Developing Communication Skills with GP's. Details are attached including the registration form.



Palliative Care the Dr. Caroline Murtagh Registration form for basics and more.pdf professional backgro 15th May 2015.doc

## Cancer Council Victoria

The cancer council Victoria have a very informative newsletter that will help keep you up to date with recent evidence, upcoming education, and resources to help families understand the cancer journey.

To subscribe to this newsletter, receive updates about upcoming events, new resources, cancer news and information, [please click here](#). If you would like to unsubscribe, provide feedback or suggest a topic for the CISS Cancer News Weekly, please email [CISSCancer.NewsWeekly@cancervic.org.au](mailto:CISSCancer.NewsWeekly@cancervic.org.au)

## Effective Communication in Palliative Care Alert

A new feedback alert to the aged care industry has been issued to promote effective communication in palliative care by staff working in aged care facilities.

The guidance has been issued by the Commonwealth Aged Care Complaints Scheme as complaints it receives often involve communication issues with the family and friends of care recipients.

The alert provides examples of the communication issues that have arisen, includes suggestions about effective communication strategies, and links to relevant resources.

The alert can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/P63waj>

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.**

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