



Barwon South Western Region
Palliative Care

The Palliative Approach Newsletter *June 2017 - Issue 19*

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

Welcome to the June issue of the Palliative Approach Newsletter.

There has been a fair bit of activity in the Barwon sub-region with education workshops, in-services and lectures.

Many Residential Aged Care Facilities are implementing the key processes in a palliative approach which I am delighted about. I am very passionate about the three key processes of a Palliative Approach i.e. Advance Care Planning, Palliative Care Case Conferences and End of Life Care Pathways.

If you would like me to come to your facility and demonstrate the resources in the Palliative Approach Toolkit relating to these three key processes my contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter. I also hold workshops focusing on the resources in the Palliative Approach Toolkit and the three key processes of a palliative approach.

Education Opportunities and Resources

Palliative Approach Toolkit Workshop for Management, RN's, EENs and ENs

The next workshop on the 'Toolkit' will be held late July/early August. A venue is still to be secured so lookout for the flyer which will be sent to all RACF's in the near future.

Palliative Approach for Personal Care Workers and Disability Care Workers

The next workshop will be advertised shortly once a venue has been secured. Hopefully mid – late August.

Dying to Talk

'Dying to Talk' is an online resource developed as part of a collaboration between the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) and Palliative Care Australia (PCA). It has been designed to assist nurses and their patients discuss end of life – a special time in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

<http://dyingtotalk.org.au/>

Regional Education

Dr. Ian Grant, Medical Specialist in Palliative Care at Barwon Health is delivering his second lecture for this calendar year in Camperdown on the 22nd of June. The topic of this lecture is 'Advanced Clinical Assessment Skills'.

The venue is the Killara Centre, Corangamite Shire Buildings, Camperdown and the pharmaceutical company Menarini, Australia are kindly sponsoring the event which enables us to provide this education free. Please see further details and how to register here <P:\Palliative Aged Care Support Role\Education\Workshops\Camperdown Lectures\2016 2017\22nd June 2017\Back to Basics Adv Assessment Skills.pdf>

[Palliative Care Australia and Decision Assist](#)

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) and Decision Assist have announced funding to support aged care workers to attend the Australian Palliative Care Conference in September 2017.

PCA has indicated the Continuing Professional Development Scholarships supported by Decision Assist will give aged care workers who would not usually be able to attend the conference, the opportunity to learn from Australia's palliative care leaders and experts.

The attached PCA media release includes links to the relevant web sites for more information.

www.pca2017.org.au/scholarships

[A Palliative Approach to Dementia Care](#)

Podcast from Palliative Care Victoria

Professor Jenny Abbey proposes that an optimal approach to caring for people with dementia must be based on acceptance that dementia is a terminal illness. In this podcast she highlights the importance discussing how people with dementia wished to be cared for during the terminal stages of their illness with them and their families while they still able to make informed decisions.

<http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/library-media/a-palliative-approach-to-dementia-care/>

[Ready for Community Palliative Care web resource](#)

The department of Health and Human Services, Palliative Care Program are pleased to announce that the Ready for community palliative care web resource have been published.

This resource is intended to support acute hospital staff in their discharge planning with patients who are in the last twelve months of life. Patients may be stable, deteriorating, unstable or actively dying.

The aim is to make discharge safe and secure for patients, families and carers, whether it is to the person's home, residential aged care or disability service.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/end-of-life-care/palliative-care/ready-for-community>

[palliAGED](#)

palliAGED was launched on 25 May 2017 by the Minister of Ageing, the Hon Ken Wyatt, AM.

The palliAGED site supports nurses and care workers in residential aged care or community care, GPs and general practice nurses, allied health professionals and support staff with evidence, tools, guidance and practice resources about palliative care for older Australians. There is also information and resources for older people and their families.

palliAGED also offer a range of apps to provide nurses and GPs with easy and convenient access to information to help them care for people approaching the end of their life.

<https://www.palliaged.com.au/tabid/4351/Default.aspx>

[Decision Assist's new website](#)

Decision Assist has just launched a new website, with improved content and functionality. The site is now responsive for mobile phones and tablets.

Decision Assist is a national program that provides education, resources and advisory services to support aged care and general practice workers in palliative care and advance care planning.

We've also built a new resource centre and news and events area – shared with Advance Care Planning Australia – to make it easy to find resources and tools to support advance care planning and palliative care.

<http://www.decisionassist.org.au/>

[The Better Health Channel](#)

The Department of Health & Human Services is pleased to advise that end of life and palliative care topics have been updated on Better Health Channel.

The Victorian State Governments Better Health Channel provides health and medical information to improve the health and wellbeing of people and the communities they live in.

Right click on the icon below to visit the Better Health Channel



[Aboriginal Stories About Approaching the End of Life](#)

The Shoalhaven Aboriginal Palliative Care Healthy Partnerships Committee, has created a booklet sensitively capturing the end of life stories from six Aboriginal patients and carers from the Shoalhaven region. The stories share information about palliative care services, planning for end of life and how talking with loved ones about their preferences helped with healing and decision-making. Right click on the image (below) to visit the ACI website and download the booklet.

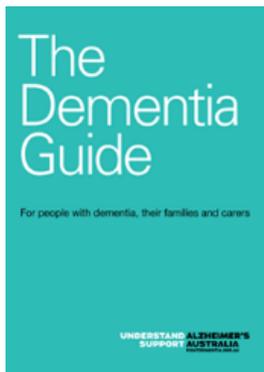


[Religious and cultural components of ACP](#)

A new website, ACPTalk, provides information and support for health professionals conducting advance care planning with people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. The 'search' function enables users to review background information and advice on advance care planning for a particular religion/faith or culture. Visit the website developed by Cabrini Health and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health [here](#).

[Guidance on palliative care for people with dementia](#)

The Irish Hospice Foundation has published new guidance documents to promote access to appropriate palliative care for people with dementia throughout their illness. Separate booklets cover: Facilitating discussion on future end-of-life care; Advance care planning; Loss and grief; Management of hydration and nutrition; Pain assessment and management; Ethical decision making; and Medication and dementia. They can be downloaded [here](#).



[The Dementia Guide now available](#)

Alzheimer's Australia Victoria has released a comprehensive, free handbook and online guide that offers information and support options for anyone who has been impacted by dementia. The Guide includes a chapter on end of life issues including palliative care and grief and bereavement. You can access the online version and order free hard copies [here](#). There is also a link on that page that requires registration to receive a download link to print a copy.

[Helping people to have those difficult conversations](#)

Molly Carlile, SEPC (aka the Death Talker) and Caroline Mulcahy, Carers Victoria spoke with Patricia Karvelas, ABC Radio, on the individual experience of death and caring and how to encourage conversations around end of life. You can listen to the conversation on ABC RN Drive [here](#)

[CareSearch](#)

The [CareSearch](#) team have been funded by the Department of Health to develop an online evidence and knowledge base for palliative care in aged care. This project is called the PCACE (Palliative Care in Aged Care Evidence) Project and will provide evidence based guidance on the clinical areas and service issues covered in the Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care (APRAC) and the Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting (COMPAC). To keep the community informed on the progress of the project and highlight new and existing evidence in the sector, CareSearch are distributing a monthly newsletter, the 'PCACE Project News'.

I have attached a copy of the first edition because of your interests in palliative care and aged care. Should you wish to receive future newsletters you can sign up by visiting the [PCACE Project News subscription link](#). You can also email pcace.project@flinders.edu.au for more information about the project.

The Caresearch website also offers a comprehensive listing of online teaching resources in palliative care. Courses vary in relation to intended audience, content covered, accreditation and cost.

<https://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3882/Default.aspx>

[Pain in dementia and other neurological diseases](#)

CareSearch has updated the information on pain in dementia in its Residential Aged Care Hub pages. The resource notes that chronic pain has a particular and complex effect on the emotional systems, with pain causing depression and depression causing pain. The new pages also contain information about pain in Parkinson's disease, stroke and Multiple Sclerosis together with links to current resources. You can access the updated pages [here](#).

[Being well while dying](#)

Dr Ira Byock spoke recently about the surprising possibility of contentment and joy in dying and the implications for our understanding of full and healthy living. He notes that although suffering is undeniably part of illness and dying, with good palliative care many people retain a capacity for subjective well-being through to the end of their lives. You can listen to a podcast (60:00) of his talk [here](#).

[Palliative Care Online Training](#)

Free online palliative care training is available; please follow this link www.palliativecareonline.com.au for more information and enrolment.

[New Palliative Approach Toolkit Resources](#)

I am pleased to advise there is a series of new PA Toolkit resources for care-workers working in residential aged care is now available on the PA Toolkit website at www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit. These resources are also very useful for carers working in the disability sector.

[Dementia Training Study Centre](#)

Dementia Training Study Centre's (DTSC) offer a number of dementia courses that are free and online. To view the course details [click here](#) and scroll half way down the page or you can register directly by [clicking here](#) and creating a log in.

[Hidden dementia grief](#)

Patrick Ussher www.ehospice.com

Many of the losses particular to dementia are not yet recognised by society, according to Irish Hospice Foundation expert, Breffni McGuinness. He argues that people with dementia and their carers both suffer hidden, discounted or unrecognised grief.

[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 is very helpful. If you would like to purchase a Niki T34 Syringe Driver or order the DVD please contact Linda Lanham Senior Territory Manager, REM Systems on 0413 119 944 or email: llanham@remsystems.com.au Linda will also provide education on the Niki T34 free of charge.

Decision Assist



Decision Assist have made available webinars conducted over the last couple of months relating to clinical issues in palliative approach for older people. You can access the topics below via their website [here](#):

- Undertreated pain – Effective pain management for people with dementia
- Communication at the end-of-life – Meeting the needs of the family
- Recognizing the deteriorating client – What to look for

Decision Assist Telephone Advisory Service for Palliative Care in Aged Care

The Australian Government funded the Specialist Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning Advisory Services (Decision Assist) Project.

A telephone based advice service has been established to enable delivery of advisory services to general practitioners and aged care staff in all areas of Australia, 24 hours / day, 7 days / week
1300 668 908.

This number will route calls to specialist palliative care or an advance care planning operator.

Callers will be referred to relevant existing resources within their local area (where these exist), or will be provided with the required advice where a service gap exists.

For more information, follow this link to the [Decision Assist](#) website

The Palliative Care Bridge

The Palliative Care Bridge delivers innovative educational videos and resources on palliative care by respected experts and specialists in their fields. Access to this site is free. Follow [this link](#)

Understanding anxiety and depression

This module includes an introduction to anxiety and depression in older people, as well as information about treatment options and various health professionals. Follow this [link](#) to the site

Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or concerns in regards to palliative care for your residents.

Best Wishes,

Myra McRae

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