

Regional Palliative Care NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Spring has sprung, well trying to!

Welcome to the next newsletter from Palliative Care.

Before we know it December will be on us and we will be celebrating another festive season. I will send out details of CPC Christmas business hours the last week in November so you are all aware of the plans. Patients will also receive notification.

We have been successful in receiving a grant for Carer Support. We are planning quarterly sessions both in Warrnambool and throughout our regional areas. The first session was very successful. There are two sessions planned in October and all patients have received information.



This week SWH Palliative Care Inpatient Unit celebrated its 30 year birthday.

We want to shout it from the rooftop!

Australia's very first hospital-based palliative care unit celebrated its 30th birthday today. And that palliative care unit is OURS.

Three decades ago Lorraine Blake-Hoey (the unit's first manager, pictured here with current manager John Quinlivan), Mavis Mitchell and Dr Eric Fairbank inspired the community and the Powers To Be to support their dream. The rest is history.

In the past five years our incredibly-committed small team of palliative care workers have cared for almost 1,000 people. Their six-bed unit is almost always full. The average length of stay's seven days. Way back, it was 14. Patients now want to spend more time at home and are more likely to come into the unit for respite, pain management and/or palliative treatments before heading back to their loved ones. Our Palliative Care Unit team, with the amazing support of our (national award winning) Community Palliative Care Service and our wonderful Palliative Care Volunteers, lets them to do just that.

Happy Birthday SWH Palliative Care. And thank you for everything you do.

South West
Healthcare



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Open Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm Mon-Fri

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Community Palliative Care Staffing:

Currently Maureen Reicha is working with the team in the area of Terang, Mortlake, Skipton and Warrnambool. Maureen is on rotation from the Inpatient Unit and will be working with CPC until mid January 2017.

Bev Quinn has decided to retire and from the CPC team. And we will give her an official farewell next week. Currently recruitment is in process.

Art Therapy PHD student Wendy completes her study in Palliative Care in November. Wendy has been a valuable resource to the team during her placement at SWH. We have seen some amazing results during this time.

Upcoming Activities:

Georgie continues to facilitate Palliative Care Study Days which are circulated regularly.

Regional Consultancy:

Emma, Andrea & Delise are all available to assist with consultancy at any time.

Andrea will also be doing a road trip to all the DNS teams who support CPC in the new year.

Other News...

The Department has released documents in recent months which are relevant to Palliative Care:

The palliative care strategy had expired and a new implementation plan and strategy has been released. It is now titled Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework.

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

The Department has also released the Victorian Cancer plan 2016-2020 Improving cancer outcomes for all Victorians.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/cancer-care/Victorian-cancer-plan>

Last night ABC featured a document on You can't ask that Terminally ill.

http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/you-cant-ask-that/LE1517H01_0S00