

Continuing Care newsletter

March 2005

PEPA Update

(Program of experience in the palliative approach)

PEPA 1

Twenty eight placements in specialist palliative care services have been successfully completed by generalist nurses, allied health workers, personal care assistants and aboriginal health workers as part of Round One. Second round applications have now closed and applicants will be informed of the selection outcomes in the near future.

PEPA 2

Under this next stage of the program, placements will be offered to general practitioners, cancer specialists and a small number of placements for specialist palliative care providers to gain experience in paediatric palliative care.

General Practice Divisions Victoria will be involved in the development and support of the GP component of PEPA 2.

PEPA 2 is still in its early development stages. We will keep you informed on its progress.

Indigenous palliative care project

This exciting project to develop a plan for supporting the Koori community to care for their family and clan members with a life-threatening illness has recently started.

This project will build bridges between the Koori community, aboriginal health and community services and specialist palliative care services.

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) is undertaking the project in collaboration with the department. The department and VACCHO welcomes the enthusiasm and commitment that Joanne Harrison, the project officer brings to the project. The Koori community are enthusiastic about the project and are keen to participate in it.

Consultation with the Koori community and specialist palliative care services will start shortly. Joanne will also be encouraging local aboriginal health care workers to participate in PEPA.

Joanne can be contacted on 03 9419 3350 or 0400 853 651
or email at joanneh@vaccho.com.au.



Introducing Carol Pyke

Carol has been working in the Department for 3 1/2 years. Her first year was spent working on the Relative Resource Equity Formula Project with the Home and Community Care Program. Since joining the Continuing Care team, Carol has worked on the Post Acute Care Program and more recently she has included the specialist sub-acute clinics and carer issues in her portfolio.

Prior to joining the Department, Carol worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs for 14 years in a variety of roles including human resources and health.

Carol has a degree in English Literature and History and unashamedly acknowledges that she relies on the advice and expertise of the field on professional issues. She finds the health area interesting and challenging and admires the field for their commitment to delivering high quality health services.

Staff changes and contact details

Sheila Hirst is providing program management support to PEPA and a number of other Commonwealth funded projects. [Sheila is contactable on 03 9616 1334 \(Tuesdays and Wednesdays\) or via \[sheila.hirst@dhs.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:sheila.hirst@dhs.vic.gov.au\).](#)

Allan Havelock will be leaving the PEPA 1 program in mid March. We wish him well in his new role at Anglicare at Frankston.

We are currently reviewing all the staffing arrangements for PEPA, taking in the needs of both PEPA 1 and 2. In the interim we are planning a strategy to support PEPA 1 in the short-term and we will let you know once this is in place.

A PEPA email address has been established: please email pepa@dhs.vic.gov.au with your queries.

Victorian Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group

The Victorian Palliative Care Implementation Advisory Group (VPCIAG) held their first meeting on 21st February 2005. The VPCIAG advises and supports the implementation of the new palliative care policy, *Strengthening Palliative Care: A policy for health and community care providers 2004-09*. The key roles and functions are to:

- Advise on the key priorities for implementation across the state
- Receive information on each consortium
- Review and monitor progress on strategy implementation
- Evaluate the overall implementation of this policy and its initiatives
- Provide links with expert and professional bodies and consumer groups to guide the strengthening of palliative care across Victoria
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination between the department and palliative care services and among palliative care services

Members of the VPCIAG include:

- Ms Vivien Adler, DHS (Chair)
- Ms Margaret Box, Palliative Care Victoria
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria representative
- Ms Noala Flynn, Mercy Western Palliative Care
- General Practice Divisions of Victoria representative
- Ms Jo Hall, Barwon Region Palliative Care Consultancy Team
- Associate Professor Peter Hudson, Centre for Palliative Care
- Dr Peter Martin, Clinical Director, Palliative Care Services, St Vincent's Health
- Robyn McLeod, consumer representative
- Professor Margaret O'Connor, Vivien Bulwinkel Chair of Nursing
- Ms Trish Waters, Carers Victoria
- Ms Ann Zappulla, Loddon Mallee Palliative Care
- Ms Angela Edwards, Manager, Residential Services Unit, DHS
Ms Maureen Robinson, Manager, Programs, Rural & Regional Health Services, DHS

Terms of reference for the VPCIAG are being finalised and will be posted on the Internet when completed. The Advisory Group will meet quarterly through to June 2006. Minutes and key actions from these meetings will be distributed to each consortium for their information.

For more information see www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare

Action plan for older people available

A National Action Plan for improving the care of older people across the acute-aged care continuum (2004-2008) has been developed on behalf of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) by the AHMAC Care of Older Australians Working Group. For a copy of *From Hospital to Home Improving Care Outcomes for Older People*, contact Sue Traynor on 9616 1336 or sue.traynor@dhs.vic.gov.au

Sub-acute Provider Forums Dates for 2005

Sub-acute Provider Forums offer you the opportunity to obtain the latest information on departmental policy directions and to hear about service delivery models and practice from other health care practitioners. Recent forums focused on dementia, depression and delirium, and stroke.

Forum details for 2005 are:

Date	Topic	Venue
Friday March 4	Carers: how health care providers can't work without them	Level 12, 555 Collins Street
Friday June 3	Dementia	Level 12, 555 Collins Street
Friday Sept 2	To be advised	Level 12, 555 Collins Street
Friday Nov 11	To be advised	Level 12, 555 Collins Street

To have your name added to the Sub-acute Provider email group and receive notification of upcoming forums, email Carol Pyke at carol.pyke@dhs.vic.gov.au. For further information, please contact Carol Pyke on (03) 9616 1335.

Maximise your input into the SACS Minimum Dataset

Comments are invited on the Exposure Draft of the new Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services Minimum Dataset (SACS MDS). SACS providers are required to report on the SACS MDS from 1 July 2005, so this is your chance to provide input on its design.

The Community Rehabilitation Centre Minimum Dataset and the Specialist Clinics Minimum Dataset are being redeveloped into a single dataset, the SACS MDS. The new SACS MDS will provide important data to inform the future development of SACS services.

The dataset is an element of the SACS Framework, which encompasses:

- The development of a model of care that reflects changes in clinical practice and new organisational approaches to sub-acute care.
- The consolidation of the SACS funding streams.
- The development of standardised accountability measures and reporting processes.

The SACS MDS has been drafted in collaboration with a working party comprised of managers and clinicians from the field and data experts. A key aim is to align the data items and definitions with those used in other departmental collections such as the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED), and the standard definitions used in the National Health Data Dictionary. Your input will help to inform the final version.

Timelines:

Wednesday 16 March 2005	Closing date for comments
Wednesday 6 April 2005	Release and information session
May 2005	Education sessions for providers
1 July 2005	2005-06 SACS MDS reporting cycle begins

The Exposure Draft is available from:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/subacute/sacsdraft.htm>

Comments or queries can be sent to Adina Hamilton at adina.hamilton@dhs.vic.gov.au.

SACS MDS release and information session

When:	6 April 2005
Time:	10.30am
Where:	Level 12, 555 Collins Street Melbourne

Watch this space for further information

For further information, or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact Coralie Kennedy on coralie.kennedy@dhs.vic.gov.au

Advance Notice

Facing The End of Life at the Beginning of Life: Practice, Policy and Future Directions in Paediatric Cancer and Palliative Care

Ms Nancy Cincotta – Keynote Speaker

Nancy Cincotta MSW, has 25 years experience as a social worker working with chronically ill/dying children and their families. She works at Mount Sinai Medical Center New York, and is Psychosocial Director of Camp Sunshine Maine. Nancy has academic appointments at Columbia University School of Public Health and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She has published widely and has had a leadership role in the Association of Paediatric Oncology Social Workers. Nancy's breadth of clinical experience makes her a very exciting teacher for professionals in this field.

This free symposium featuring this outstanding international speaker and local presenters will be of benefit for health professionals working with children with life threatening illnesses and their families.

The symposium will include presentations from the perspective of clinical practice and policy of cancer and palliative care in Victoria.

Topics will include: innovations in clinical practice; policy and service development; self-care for professionals.

This Symposium is a joint venture of the Department of Human Services, the Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, Very Special Kids, the Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program, and The Cancer Council Victoria.

When	April 5, 2005 from 10.15am – 3.30pm
Where	Department of Human Services, Conference Rooms A & B 12th Floor, 555 Collins St Melbourne.
Cost	Free (includes lunch and light refreshments)

Registration forms are available at www.health.vic.gov.au/palliativecare

Further enquiries to Michael Bramwell on 03 9616 2114 (Monday to Thursday) or by email to Michael.Bramwell@dhs.vic.gov.au