

PALLIATIVE CARE WA (INC) NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue
1

March 2001

Highlights

Funding
Office Holders
Management
Palliative Care
Week
Conference
Children's
Hospice
Facilities
Silver Chain
Chair of Palliative
Care
Video
Trial

MORE FUNDING

HOORAY!!!

Three Cheers – all P.C. WA's lobbying with the Cancer Foundation's support prior to the State election has resulted in a commitment from the Gallop Labour Government of an extra \$8 million for Palliative Care over the next 4 years. It certainly isn't as much as we asked for but it is a start. The plan is now to try and refocus the Health Department's palliative care policies, especially in context of the financial shortfalls faced by regional – rural services.

So thank YOU to all those PC WA members who responded to our request for help by approaching their local candidates in the lead-

up to the election. Together with the mailings from ourselves and the Cancer Foundation plus numerous other visits to politicians, we achieved – for the first time ever – a written commitment from both major parties that they would provide more financial support for palliative care.

PC WA will keep you informed about new developments and will continue to liaise with the service providers. A meeting is already scheduled with the new Minister for Health, Bob Kucera.

THANK YOU again to those members who helped with the lobbying campaign.



Our "Pollies" at work!!

NEW OFFICE HOLDERS

Sarah Pickstock who wears two hats for the Palliative Care Unit at Hollywood and Silver Chain, has stepped down as President (many thanks for your efforts Sarah) and David Thorne, Medical Director at Murdoch Community Hospice

was voted in unanimously as her replacement.

Others leaving the Executive Committee but continuing as members of PC WA (there is no escape) are Geoff Duggan (Cottage Hospice), Lorraine Ford (Silver Chain – who is off to

Sydney), Raymond Grapes (St John of God – Bunbury), Kerry Shardlow (Palliative Care – Bunbury) and Graeme Manolas (PCU-Hollywood)

Thanks to them all for helping PC WA during its continuing "growing pains".

MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ARE

Dr David Thorne – President (Murdoch Community Hospice)

Dr Sarah Pickstock – Immediate Past President (PCU Hollywood)

Clive Deverall – Policy and Planning

Janette Newstead – Treasurer (Centre for Pall.Care Education)

Lynn Oldham – Research (ECU)

Kerry Cousins – Clinical Issues (Silver Chain Hospice Care)

Peta Firms – Marketing (ECU)

Kate White – (ECU)

Magella Ryan-Bennett – (Silver Chain Hospice Care)

Helen Walker – (Centre for Pall Care Education)

Sister Teresa Joyce – (Murdoch Community Hospice.)

Margot McNally – Administrative Assistant PC WA ex officio

Any PC WA member interested in serving on the Committee – especially from regional WA – please contact El Presidente – Dr David Thorne at Murdoch Community Hospice(david.thorne@palliativecarewa.asn.au)



Your Committee "at work" and it's all "after hours"

PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2001

YES – it has been shifted!!

Palliative Care Week is now from 7th to 13th October and Volunteers are to be the special focus. What would we all do without our volunteers? PC WA has applied to the Dept of Health & Aged Care for a palliative care week grant. Watch this space. It is

possible that some funds will be available from PC WA for small grants (\$200?) to assist local groups to promote palliative care during PC Week. More information to follow or, if you are interested, send a letter or email to PC WA at 46 Ventnor Ave., West Perth W.A. 6005.

*VOLUNTEERS
THE BACK
BONE OF THE
COMMUNITY!*

PALLIATIVE CARE – A NATIONAL PRIORITY

For the first time palliative care has been identified as one of 13 national priorities for Action in Cancer Control developed by a large working party under the auspices of the Federal Government's Department of Health & Aged Care. The recommen-

dations now go to the National Health Priority Action Council and the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council. Assuming the Health Ministers – States & Territories & Federal – accept the recommendations on palliative care, the next step will be for

Palliative Care Australia (PC WA's Federal counterpart) to get together with the National Cancer Control Initiative (NCCI) & The Australian Cancer Network(ACN) to decide on a plan of action that relates to addressing problems of applying standards of care,



Yes Dear, All those organisations mixed together make alphabet soup

REVIEW OF STATE PALLIATIVE CARE PLAN

Do you remember the WA Palliative Care Plan launched in 1997 by then Minister for Health Kevin Prince? It was a document, beautifully bound and with magnificent margins, that was criticised at the time for not addressing the issue of funding – a pretty important ingredient for any type of service delivery – don't you think? Prior to the State election the then Minister for Health (another one) John Day, agreed that the State

Plan be reviewed. Sarah Pickstock and David Thorne were nominated to the Working Party as representatives of PC WA. Both Sarah and David objected to the first draft of the report as, once again, no reference was made to funding. Their objection was noted but a final version of the report is yet to be seen. Keep holding your breath!

Lack of information about funding for palliative care is almost as much of a problem

as not having any funding at all (well, you know what we mean!). It's no wonder palliative care was christened the "Cinderella" within our health care system during the pre-election lobbying campaign



State Palliative Care Plan

Review (cont' d)

Remember – hospice palliative care (we mean real palliative care) - received just 0.75%, that is \$13 million a year. (Albert Einstein actually confirmed that figure as under 1%) - of the State's health care budget.

With the new Government's commitment to an extra \$8

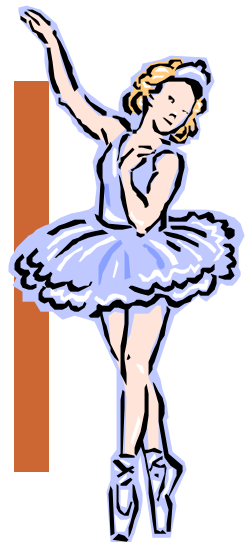
million over 4 years that creeps up to \$15 million a year.

YES, THE NAME CINDERELLA IS STILL VERY APT.

(Just for the record former Premier Richard Court also wrote to PC WA in the very closing stage of the election – promising more funding by a

re-elected Liberal government – the rest is history)

Many independent candidates also enthusiastically agreed that Palliative Care needed more support.



SUPREME COURT TRIAL

Ten days in October are to be set aside for the trial in the WA Supreme Court, of Dr Daryl Stephens for the alleged wilful murder of a patient, Freeda Patricia Hayes, at Murdoch Community Hospice, in late 2000.

The brother and sister of the

deceased will also face trial.



EXPANSION OF PALLIATIVE CARE FACILITIES

PC WA has expressed some concerns about plans to expand in patient palliative care in Perth. PC WA welcomes expansion of services but the necessary expertise by way of trained staff and proper infrastructure must be guaranteed. PC WA's Clinical Providers Group is monitoring the issue. It is essential that any new initiatives are financed with new money and in agreement with those involved in delivery of palliative care services. It is

also important that the increased funding (\$8 million) promised by the new Government is not spent directly by the Health Department without full consultation with existing service providers.

It is important that existing services – especially those acutely underfunded – are beefed up before increasing the burden. We all know that the population is ageing and that the incidence of cancer is increasing, fuelling a demand

for palliative care services which are crying out for a good planning process accompanied by mechanisms for funding.

Remember – palliative care is about the sector of the health care system where non government organisations are actively contributing money, skilled and experienced personnel, equipment, volunteers and motivation.

End of commercial...CUT!!



Growing old is part of growing up

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You will see from the attached flyer that unfortunately we will have to increase our fees slightly, from 1st July 2001.

Please read the flyer, which also advises of available resources.

If you wish to do so, on the back there is a membership form for you to complete.



GREAT CONFERENCE

“BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF CARE” was the theme for PC WA's State conference held at the Sheraton Hotel in November last year. Prof.Linda Kristjanson and her team at Edith Cowan University together with PC WA members, worked ex-

tremely hard to put everything together for what was a very informative, provoking and enjoyable conference.

THANK YOU to ECU and the conference sponsors without whom none of this would have happened.

Edith Cowan University

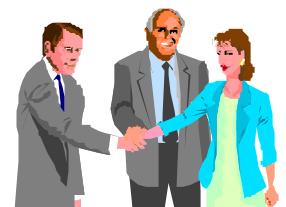
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd

GlaxoSmithKline

Hollywood Private Hospital

SKG Radiology

Australian Funeral Directors Association (WA)



PALLIATIVE CARE WA – YOUR ASSOCIATION

Yes – PC WA is your Association – so a brief reminder of the set-up.

We are an Incorporated Association operating under a Constitution which will be amended in the near future. PC WA is recognised by the Australian Taxation Office as a Public Benevolent Institution – PBI. The Association is a member of Palliative Care Australia which was set up to lobby for the palliative care cause at a national level. PC

WA has two delegates on the PC Australia Board – plus Ellen Nightingale (Director of the Cancer Foundation’s Community Services Division) who is the current President of PC Australia.

PC WA runs on a shoestring and the smell of the proverbial oily rag. In the last year we have managed to get some financial support to employ our first part-time (16 hours a week) office admin person. The Cancer Foundation very

generously provides us with accommodation at their new headquarters in West Perth. Before that we were in a Lotteries Commission building and paying rent.

Our income is generated by YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBS which are of course tax deductible – exclusive of GST! We also apply for grants from government, from service providers and pharmaceutical companies etc. These are usually related to a particular project and do not



Administration; and try as hard as you might you cannot escape the old admin... The Association has not gone down the fund raising path as it would compete with the fundraising activities of those non government organisations who are delivering the services – however PC WA does not actually return any kind

donations that are occasionally sent in. Please send more! The Association is very grateful to St John of God Healthcare, Silver Chain and the Cancer Foundation for their contributions to the costs of the lobbying campaign leading up to the last election.

PC WA’s objective is to pro-

mote the delivery of quality palliative care services in Western Australia; to promote a better understanding of palliative care in the community and to contribute to ongoing professional education and awareness. All the input at Management level is on an honorary basis with busy palliative care people doing their

We do not return your kind donations. Please send more ! We need the money!

the Association to run effectively. Somehow or another we have a laugh and there is money in the bank (must be a mistake somewhere??)

More recently the Management Committee took the decision to involve PC WA in actual service delivery. Eve-

ryone on the Management Committee recognised the change of direction but agreed that we needed to be flexible and responsive to local needs. It was also an opportunity to help in improving the delivery of palliative care to patients plus the bonus of promoting

palliative across the board. This is in the infant stages and we will be reviewing the whole enterprise after 4 months to see how we are going.

More details will be made available to members in our next issue.



‘El Presidente’ Thorne

NEW PERTH OFFICE

Yes – PC WA has moved to a new office in the smart new Cancer Foundation House at 46 Ventnor Ave., in West Perth, 6005 Telephone / Fax 08 9212 4330

email
(pcwainc@palliativecarewa.asn.au)

PC WA is very grateful to the Cancer Foundation of WA for supporting the Association by providing this accommodation rent free.

THANK YOU CANCER FOUNDATION

NEW FACE AT SILVER CHAIN

Stephen Carmody – formerly with St. John of God Health Care has taken over as Manager of Silver Chain's Hospice Home Care Service.

Welcome Steven.



We really are 'High Flyers' now – in the lap of luxury

PC WA VIDEO

With the Assistance of Channel 9, a 6 minute video was made last year and has already been shown – in full – on Channel 9 and WIN Television. The video is non technical and jargon-free, designed to explain in words and pictures what palliative care is all about. WA's answer to Jane Campion and Steven Spiel-

berg, the one and only HELEN WALKER, was the creative driving force behind this project on behalf of PC WA. The Cancer Foundation also assisted as a funding sponsor. Copies of the video are available from the PC WA office.

*Jane Campion and
Steven Spielberg eat
your heart out –
here come's Helen.*

CHILDREN' S HOSPICE

A small community group is actively involved in promoting the objective of setting up a hospice for children in Perth.

Representatives of various palliative care service providers have discussed the project with the group.

CHAIR OF PALLIATIVE CARE

More detailed information is soon to be released by Edith Cowan University and the Cancer Foundation about a new chair of Palliative Care -

WATCH this space....



Chair of Palliative Care

MISS ELLANY

PALLIATIVE CARE

DRUGS – A new website developed by Dr Robert Twycross, Dr Andrew Wilcock and Ms Sarah Thorpe is now on line at www.palliativedrugs.com. There is a bulletin board where anyone can post a question and participants can post responses.

INNOVATIONS IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

This journal has received an increasing number of acco-

lades. More information on www.edc.org/lastacts.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Tassie – Hobart is the venue for the 6th Australian Palliative Care Conference. The theme is “Learning to live” and the dates September 11 – 14th 2001. More info on mail@design.com.au or www.pallcare.org.au

“ROSETTA LIFE” - this enterprise was founded in the UK by Lucinda Jarrett, a

writer and artist Filipa Pereira-Stubbs. It enables the terminally ill and the bereaved to document their lives in whatever form is appropriate to their needs or likes. Patients and carers choose to work in a variety of medias and are assisted by “Rosetta Life”. All creative output is made the copyright of the individual participant. Experts in digital art, video, TV, writing and film are available. More info www.rosettalife.org



What did we do before the computer age.

TRANSFERRING PATIENTS TO NURSING HOMES

- the transfer of patients to nursing homes from a hospice can be stressful for patients, families, carers and professional staff. A detailed prospective audit has been undertaken by Malcolm Williams, principal social worker at St Christophers Hospice in London. An executive summary of the audit is

available – it costs two pounds and eleven for the full audit and questionnaires. Contact the Librarian, St Christophers, 51 Laurie Pk Rd, London SE 26 6 DZ. Cheques etc payable to St Christophers.



DR DAME CECILY

SAUNDERS still goes to St Christophers 6 days a week. In a recent interview on BBC World with Tim Sebastian, she described the fear of parting as the element that most concerns the terminally ill patient – not the dying. In the

post war period of the 50's and 60's it was “the doctors who deserted the dying throughout the health care services of the developed world.”

GOOD ONE MICHEL ! - a quote from the 17th century French philosopher Michel Montagne -

“EVERY PERSON SHOULD BE BOOTED AND SPURRED AND EVER-READY FOR THE

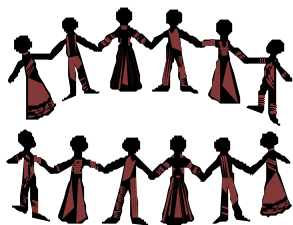


Palliative Care WA (Inc)
46 Ventnor Ave., West Perth
WA. 6005

Phone/Fax 08 9212 4330

Email –

We are On the Web
www.palliativecarewa.



PLEASE continue to support YOUR ASSOCIATION by continuing your membership and asking some of your colleagues to join too.

We have included a membership application in this edition of the newsletter.

We also want news for the next newsletter – pictures and/or words – just send it to Margot McNally at PC WA, 46 Ventnor Ave., West Perth W.A. 6005 or e mail -

pcwainc@palliativecarewa.asn.au

WE NEED YOUR STORY

A certain nurse, who shall remain nameless, came to a recent Executive Meeting of PC WA and told the following story -

“The other day I was having so much trouble with my car – it was leaking water everywhere. I sent it off to be fixed and on picking it up I was assured by the mechanic that the problem had been solved and it would no longer leak.

Next day I left home for work, parked the car, went into the office before having to attend a lecture at another

site.

Running late (as usual) I flew out to the car park and lo and behold – water leaking everywhere from under my car.

Rushed back into office, asked someone for their car to get to my meeting.

Upon my return to the office there were a few smirks, laughter and murmurs.

I was taken out to my car only to be shown that I had parked it over a sprinkler.

ENOUGH SAID.



If you got yourself a 'good' car this would never happen.