



THE PRESIDENTS REPORT

APRIL 2007

2007 is a significant year for Palliative Care in Western Australia. Legislation that takes end of life decision making in WA to a better place, passed through the lower house of state parliament in 2006 and will be debated in the upper house in the coming sitting of Parliament. This will bring to Western Australians:

1. The ability to say what their wishes are for their end of life care.
2. The ability to appoint someone to speak for them on these matters when they can no longer speak for them selves.
3. The ability for end of life decisions to be made in the best interests of the dying, without the pressure of consequences in the criminal code.

We look forward to this long awaited legislation passing into law in Western Australia.

The Palliative Care Network, now fully functional, will have its first full year of influence on the future of Palliative Care in WA.

You will find within this newsletter an update of the networks activities. This will be a regular feature of our publication as PCWA develops a relationship with the network. There are many opportunities for the two organizations to work across the public/

private divide and strengthen the role of Palliative Care in our community.

Palliative Care WA is now examining its place in the Palliative Care world of WA. PCWA must now develop a stronger infrastructure to enable it to meet the needs of the future. The executive is now considering a business case to achieve this and we will bring you updates on its progress.

The Bethesda and Kalamunda PCU's are now one year old. I would like to recognize the important and challenging work done by the staff at both units. We wish you well as you continue to provide good palliative care in 2007 and beyond.

May 2007 be a good year for all who work in and support the work of palliative care in WA.

SCOTT BLACKWELL - PRESIDENT

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE AT THE PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK BREAKFAST ON MONDAY 21st MAY AT THE PERTH ZOO. Full information Page 3!



A CANCER COUNCIL WESTERN AUSTRALIA BEQUEST FUNDS PALLIATIVE CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

Palliative care in WA has been given a major boost with the Cancer Council Western Australia granting seven scholarships for nurses working in palliative care.

The scholarships have been made possible through a major bequest from Miss Josephine McLarty, a woman from country WA who wanted her estate to benefit palliative care services.

The Josephine McLarty Palliative Care scholarships are intended to improve knowledge, skills and clinical practice in palliative care

in Western Australia by providing funding for nurses to pursue post graduate qualifications.

In the first round of the scholarships, seven nurses currently working in palliative care units in Perth will receive funding to undertake or finish study courses.

A second round of funding will be offered later in 2007. For more information call the Cancer Council Professional Development Centre on 9382 3774.

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A HISTORY OF THE ST. LUKE'S DAY SERVICE

The combined Palliative Care Services of Western Australia have conducted a service each year since 1982 as part of their bereavement care program. It has always been held on or near 18 October, which is celebrated within the Christian calendar as St. Luke's Day, honouring the evangelist and physician St. Luke. It has provided a public setting and ritual for people to attend and to find solidarity with others in their mourning. Strangers are seen to turn to one another, to embrace and converse in the shared experience of loss.

The annual St. Luke's Day Service was the creation of Father John Ryan, now a priest in the Catholic Parish of Scarborough. Father John was the first Chaplain for the Silver Chain Hospice Care Service in Perth and one of the persons who gave birth and form to Palliative Care, as we know it, in Western Australia. In consultation with Rev. Dr Douglas Macadam, formerly Medical Director of The Cottage Hospice, the two men saw the need for such a service to be offered to people in their bereavement journey.

The first St. Luke's Day Service was held in St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Perth in 1982. John Ryan compiled the liturgy, some elements of which still figure in services to the present day. Invitations were sent to the Anglican and Catholic Archbishops and the Moderator of the Uniting Church to attend and be the leaders of the service. Music was provided by the Cathedral organist Annette Goerke and choir. As a climax in the service the lights in the cathedral were darkened and hundreds of candles were lit. At the beginning there was one candle representing each person who had died. As nurses and volunteers lit them they were reminded of those they had cared for during the year, while the choir sang the solemn work "Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead." With the last candle lit, the choir broke into the 'Hallelujah Chorus', also from Handel's Messiah, and the lights again flooded the cathedral. A very moving moment and symbol for all.

Over all the years there have been many guest preachers, some of them chaplains from the Services. Choirs and organists from St. Mary's and St. George's Cathedrals and Wesley Church, Perth have been joined by occasional soloists to provide music. Doctors, nurses, volunteers and chaplains, as well as the Governors of Western Australia have all read lessons and prayers. In the first ten years the 6-700 candles were lit by staff and volunteers. Then there appeared the spontaneous and meaningful involvement of people from the congregation wanting to light candles. Now it has become common practice! Nearly 1,000 people attend the service in response to invitations from the various Palliative Care Services in W.A., to those bereaved families cared for during the past year. Some people return year after year. Staff members and volunteers of the Palliative Services are given opportunity in the liturgy to dedicate themselves afresh to their vocation.

An important feature of the service has been the supper following held at Mercedes College and provided by the Mercy Sisters. It has been a moving thing to see family and

staff members embracing and talking in recognition of the care given and received.

Over the years the St. Luke's Day Service has been held in St. Mary's Cathedral as the only church large enough for the numbers. With re-building in progress at St. Mary's the service has been held these past two years at Winthrop Hall at the University of W.A. with supper provided by Trinity Residential College students. Continuing the leadership of Father John Ryan, have been Rev. Les Goode, Rev. Geoff Blyth and recently Rev. Graeme Manolas as liturgists. It is a service for people of any faith or no faith, even while it is set within a Christian liturgy. It draws people from right across the community who wish to express their faith and grief in this way as they remember their loved ones and make their journey into the future in faith, hope and love.

Rev. Geoff Blyth Chaplain: Silver Chain Hospice Care Service



ST LUKE'S DAY SERVICE 2007

THE ST LUKE'S DAY SERVICE 2007 WILL BE HELD AT WINTHROP HALL, UWA

THURSDAY 25th OCTOBER at 7.15pm with supper to follow in the Undercroft.

For further information please contact:

**The Rev'd Graeme Manolas
Coordinator of Pastoral Care Services
HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL
Phone : (08) 9346 6000
Fax : (08) 9346 6404
Email : manolasg@ramsayhealth.com.au**



NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2007



NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2007 will be officially launched by The Hon Mr Jim McGinty, Minister for Health, at the Annual PCWA Breakfast on Monday 21 May 2007 at The Perth Zoo.

TICKETS COST \$25.00 per person and \$20.00 for Palliative Care Volunteers

TO REGISTER: Please forward a cheque, money order or credit card details enclosing your name, address and contact phone number to Mary Thornton, PCWA (Inc) 46 Ventnor Avenue, West Perth, WA 6005. A ticket and receipt will be forwarded on to you. Cheques made payable to Palliative Care Inc.

NEWS FROM HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Planning is well under way for a \$128.5M building program. The building project will be very complex and will begin in May 2007. Upon completion of the redevelopment Hollywood will comprise: 500 inpatient beds, 10 operating theatres, two medical specialist centres, 30-place day chemotherapy suite and a 50-place combined Day Procedure Unit/Day of Surgery Admission (DOSA).

There will be considerable building activity in 4 separate projects over the next 2 years, and so there will potentially be significant disturbance. The Palliative Care Unit is currently devising strategies that will be put in place to help us cope with the noise, dust and dirt and to minimise the disruption to patients and families. We are very committed to continuing to provide quality care during this time and will keep referring sources up to date in the near future.

We continue to have a strong medical team. Dr Derek Eng has joined us as a specialist having recently completed his Palliative Medicine training, and Dr Kirsten Auret will be taking a few months off for maternity leave. Our other specialist staff are Drs Alice Phua and Chris Jacklyn, supported by a full time registrar. The unit is happy to admit patients that are privately insured, veterans or public patients for symptom control or terminal care. We also run three outpatient clinics per week and bookings can be made on 9346 6450. Our doctors are happy to be contacted to discuss patient care



or give advice and all can be reached through the switchboard at Hollywood Private Hospital on 9346 6000.

Left: Dr Derek Eng

Did you know?

Like all the wards at the Hollywood Private Hospital (HPH), as a sign of respect for our heritage, the PCU is named after a Western Australian recipient of the George Cross and Victoria Cross medals of honour.

Private Martin O'Meara was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery. In Pozieres, France 1916, during heavy fighting he repeatedly went out and brought in wounded officers from No Man's Land under intense artillery and machine gun fire.

Martin O'Meara Ward Palliative Care Unit (PCU)

THE WA CENTRE FOR CANCER AND PALLIATIVE CARE IS LAUNCHED



THE WACCPC TEAM

THE WA CENTRE FOR CANCER AND PALLIATIVE CARE LAUNCH

In February this year, the State Health Minister, the Honourable Jim McGinty applauded the research of the WA Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care (WACCPC) by celebrating the new collaboration between Curtin University of Technology and Edith Cowan University (ECU). Researchers at both universities have joined together to enhance the development of the WACCPC.

At the launch held at Oceanus on the Beach at City Beach the Minister signed a commemorative certificate with Curtin's VC Professor Hackett and ECU's VC Professor Cox. The event was attended by approximately 140 health professionals, university academics and researchers, as well as corporate representatives.

The WACCPC is a multidisciplinary research centre that undertakes research focused on cancer and other progressive terminal illnesses and palliative care. Curtin Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Development, Professor Linda Kristjanson, first set up the Centre with a small research team 10 years ago when she was at ECU. Professor Kristjanson was the inaugural Chair of Palliative Care – a position funded by The Cancer Council WA that has been instrumental in fostering the development of this internationally recognised Centre. The close involvement of health professionals and clinical providers such as Silver Chain, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and others in shaping the research program of the Centre has ensured that results are ready for application to practice. The Centre is committed to improving cancer care and palliative care for Western Australians.

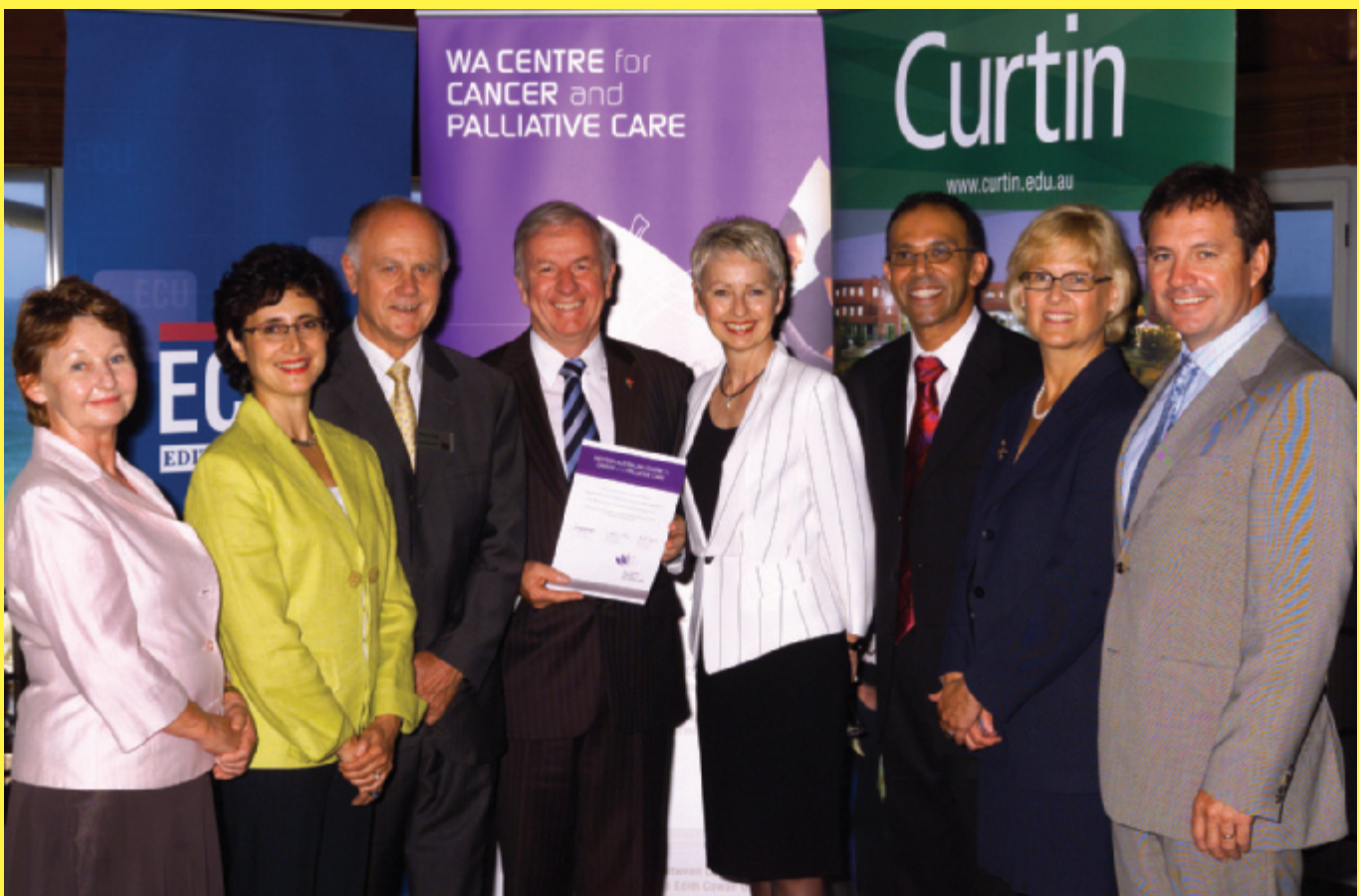
The WACCPC is growing its local, national and international research partnerships under the professional leadership of Curtin's Professor Moyez Jiwa and ECU's Associate Professor Samar Aoun, who were appointed as Co-Directors last year.

Locally the Centre will launch a study in WA high schools, colleges and universities into the links between unhealthy habits such as smoking and body image, and work closely with the WA cancer and palliative care network in streamlining the care pathways of lung cancer patients.

Nationally it plans to develop guidelines for a palliative approach for aged care in the community and internationally it aims to build on its collaborative research projects in palliative care.



L-R Prof Linda K, PVC Curtin University, A/P Samar Aoun ECU and Ms Susan Rooney CEO The Cancer Council Western Australia



L-R A/Prof Lynn Oldham, A/Prof Samar Aoun, Professor Kerry Cox VC, ECU, Hon Jim McGinty, Minister for Health, Professor Jeanette Hackett VC Curtin, Professor Moyez Jiwa, Professor Linda Kristjanson, Dr Neale Fong

MARGHERITA NICOLETTI SETTLES INTO PERTH AND ST JOHN OF GOD MURDOCH COMMUNITY HOSPICE

2006 was a memorable year for me in more ways than one. At the start of summer, I stood outside the house that had been mine for the last 12 years, packed all my memories along with Mable, the ten year old Labrador, Nelly, the nine year old Golden Retriever and Juilie my Partner into our Subaru and drove into the sunset, across the Nullabor plane bound for WA.

Leaving Canberra was a little bit daunting, "you can't leave, you've been here forever" were the words that greeted me when people realised I was going. Moving out of an area familiar to me was a big step to take. I had worked there for twelve years and had been part of a service that grew and developed its community service, hospice service, hospital consultancy service and had an input with Medical student education. I had also played a major role in developing and implementing a vital service for sufferers of Motor Neurone Disease in the ACT and the south west of New South Wales. I had been a State Council member of the ACT Palliative Care society for a number of years and just been elected as vice president of Palliative Care Australia prior to my departure from Canberra, a position I continue to hold for the next two years.

Stepping into the unknown was actually quite exciting. I was prepared for a fresh start and mentally geared to take on the new challenges that lay ahead. Time has indeed flown by. My first summer at Murdoch Community Hospice is drawing to a close. Establishing how it all works and fits together has taken some time, but I think I am beginning to understand. The Palliative Care community in WA has welcomed me with open arms to the extent that I am now serving on more committees than I know what to do with!

There is a tremendous amount of innovative activity and development taking place. The Palliative Care Networks, the proposed Fiona Stanley Hospital, the setting up of a Medical school by Notre Dame University and re-development of the major teaching hospitals in WA are among some of the major ventures being undertaken.



2007 promises to be a very exciting and challenging year for me and I look forward to working closely with the Palliative Care Community, sharing my skills and expertise to ensure that the service continues to develop and grow in our State of WA.

BETHESDA PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT WELCOMES ALISON KEARNEY



Hello and thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to the palliative care community.

I trained at The University of Glasgow, graduating in 1995. A few years later I traveled to Queensland where I met my future husband Steve. I completed my physician training in Brisbane and Townsville. After a brief stint in Sydney, I am now very pleased to be living and working in Perth. My current position is a .4 F.T.E at Bethesda Hospitals Palliative Care Unit.

My husband has been posted to Perth with his Army Unit for 2 years. Outside of work I am kept very busy looking after Euan our 14 month old son and our two beagles.

I look forward to meeting with many of you over the next few months

WA CANCER AND PALLIATIVE CARE NETWORK

Palliative Care Network Update

Seventy enthusiastic people representing metropolitan and rural palliative care services, along with other invited guests, attended the inaugural Palliative Care Network Meeting, held at Catherine's College on 8 December 2006. The meeting focused on updating the palliative care community about the planned activities of the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network, as well as getting people involved in "Working Groups" to support the identified priorities.

As highlighted in the last PCWA Newsletter the Palliative Care Network has the brief of implementing recommendations of the "Palliative Care in Western Australia. Final Report December 2005." Four key areas have been identified as priorities for 2007. They are paediatrics, rural issues, protocols and pathways, and future planning of metropolitan palliative care services.

To update on progress, Gareth Griffiths commenced with the PC Network in January and will work as the Project Officer for the Protocols and Pathways and Rural Projects, while Mary White has been recently appointed to work as the Project Officer for the Paediatrics Project.

The Protocols and Pathways Working Group is in action and will initially work together on "End of Life Pathways" As a starting point for the Rural Project, WA Country Health Services have authorized a palliative care audit of rural regions. The Paediatric Working Group is to meet again later in March to confirm priorities. The Future Planning Group has importantly been meeting with both the North and South Metropolitan Area Health Services to ensure that palliative care needs are addressed within the health care reform process.

Individuals and organisations can become members of the Palliative Care Network to have input into Working Groups, other activities and to be kept informed. PCWA members will be kept up to date with regular articles in PCWA newsletters.

For further information contact Helen Walker, Palliative Care Program Coordinator phone: 9346 7996; email: helen.walker@health.wa.gov.au. The "Palliative Care in Western Australia. Final Report December 2005" is available online:

www.clinicalnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/Pall%20Care%20Report%20Final.pdf

HELEN WALKER - PC PROGRAM COORDINATOR

NEWS FROM THE KIMBERLEY PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

The KPCS has undergone considerable upheaval during the latter months of 2007, with Wendy Scott, the Regional Palliative Care Coordinator, relocating to Perth and Olivia Berry, Clerical Officer, to Queensland. The KPCS was managed in the interim with Pauline Tanner, on secondment from SCGH Perth, Jenny Costigan and Rose Moulding, in the Acting Regional Coordinator's role whilst recruitment took place. The team welcome Ann Lucey, the newly appointed Clerical Officer, who commenced in December, 2006 and Christine Cole, the newly appointed Regional Coordinator, commencing January, 2007.

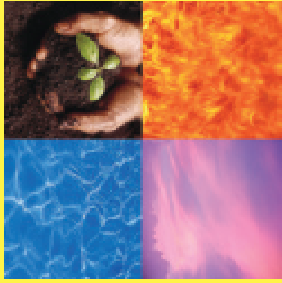
Christine was recruited from the United Kingdom, but is a true blue Australian who just happened to have an extended gap year in the northern hemisphere. That gap year lasting almost nine years until the yearning for a warmer climate became too strong to resist. During the years in the UK Christine worked initially at The Royal Marsden NHS Trust, a large cancer hospital in London. Employed as a staff nurse on a bone marrow transplant ward and then as a clinical trials research nurse in palliative care phase 1 trials and gynaecology. A two year post followed as a Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative Care at the Lister Hospital, a small private hospital overlooking Chelsea Bridge. As palliative care shifted the focus of care from malignant to include patients with non malignancies, Christine began a position, as a Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative Care, at Mayday NHS Trust, gaining experience in caring for patients with end stage disease. Christine has completed post graduate studies in Palliative Care, Gynae-oncology and most recently Non- Medical Prescribing. The plan is for Christine to visit key stakeholders, over the coming months across, the Kimberley region.



Above Right: Christine Cole



Left: Ann Lucey



**WA PALLIATIVE CARE RETREAT
& MASTERCLASS
for
Specialists in Palliative Medicine**



**Faversham House - York
Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 May 2007**

This unique weekend retreat of education, discussion, reflection, challenge and fantastic fun will offer Palliative Care Specialists the opportunity to meet collegially, reflect on their experience in palliative care and look to the future of the field and personal responses within it. This two day event will focus on the links between personal achievement, coping strategies and psychosocial awareness.

INTERNATIONAL FACILITATOR

Dr David Cameron, M.Phil (Palliative Medicine), M.Prax.Med, M.B.Ch.B

Dr Cameron has extensive experience in palliative care as well as a keen interest in teaching and assessing clinical reasoning and critical thinking. He is the author of 18 journal articles and has presented papers at eight national and international conferences.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Wendy-Lynne Wolman - PhD (Wits), MA(Clin Psych) (Wits), BA (Hons) (Wits)

Private practitioner, lecturer, clinical supervisor

For further information please contact:

The Cancer Council WA, Professional Development Centre

15 Bedbrook Place

Shenton Park WA 6008

Fax: 9381 8103

Phone: 9382 9333



This event is supported by the Program of Experience in a Palliative Approach (PEPA) and Royal Perth Hospital

3rd NATIONAL MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CONFERENCE

MND: Research Initiatives Care Management & Future Directives

Research Initiatives in MND and Clinical Practice

Care Management of people living with Motor Neurone Disease

Future Directions to improve outcomes for MND families

Tuesday 19 June 2007 - Esplanade Hotel - Fremantle

Registration Fee \$110 (inc GST)

For further information please contact:

MND Association of WA

Suite B, 11 Aberdare Road. Nedlands, WA 6009

Ph (08) 9346 7355 mndawa@cnswa.com

Web: www.mndawa.iinet.net.au

