



Palliative Care WA (Inc)

46 Ventnor Avenue
West Perth WA 6005
Phone/Fax 08 9212 4330

Email: pcwainc@palliativecarewa.asn.au
Web: www.palliativecarewa.asn.au

MARCH 2005

NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2005
22-28 MAY 2005
PARTNERS IN CARING

National Palliative Care Week 2005 will focus on the many wonderful people who are doing and have done a magnificent job in caring for the terminally ill people throughout Australia. The theme Partners in Caring has been chosen to highlight the many people who play a role in caring for someone with a terminal illness - family, friends, health professionals, and volunteers. No matter how big or small a role they play as a "Partner in Caring" it is significant and palliative care in Australia would be very different without this contribution.

National Palliative Care Week 2005 also aims to increase the awareness and understanding of palliative care in the general community. Each year thousands of Australians receive high quality care when they are dying. However, we know many are unaware of the fantastic support services available to them during this very difficult time. National Palliative Care Week 2005 aims to highlight those services and encourage Australians to consider such care.

With the support of the Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing, Palliative Care Australia and its members will conduct a range of awareness-raising activities across Australia. To learn more about the activities planned please visit http://www.pallcare.org.au/pca_nationalweek.html or contact your local state or territory palliative care association or palliative care service.

In Western Australia we are delighted to announce the re-introduction of our PCWA Breakfast to launch National Palliative Care Week - we are off to the Zoo, so please join us too!!! Full details inside.....



"POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS"

Once again there is cause to reflect upon and celebrate the real power of partnerships and collaboration. Through the combined efforts of The Cancer Council WA, Murdoch Community Hospice and Palliative Care WA a strategic achievement has been realised with the recent recognition by the State Health Department of the costs of providing specialist Palliative Care. This recognition was the outcome of a funding review lobbied for by the partnering agencies and granted through the previous Director General's Office. With a 40% increase in funding to both the Cottage Hospice and Murdoch Community Hospice and the promise of a State Plan for Palliative Care services commissioned by the current Acting Director General, we are once again in a position to both celebrate our achievements and continue to strengthen our partnerships across Palliative Care for the next phase of service review and development as alluded to in the Reid Report. Hooray for partnerships and empowerment and working together to make things happen!

Susan Rooney CEO

Amanda Leigh Director Cancer Services Division

The Cancer Council WA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WA - REPORT FROM THE PALLIATIVE CARE ADVISORY GROUP

I am pleased to report on the work of the Palliative Care Advisory Group (PCAG) and look forward to this report becoming a regular part of the PCWA Newsletter to help keep all in the community informed about the work of PCAG.

PCAG has had a challenging time over the past 18 months and has been well supported by a group of extremely committed palliative care experts within the State. At the last meeting of 2004, we identified a number of issues that warranted attention in order to make our work more effective. These issues included concerns that the advice provided by PCAG was not being seriously received, that the agenda for our work was not clear, that background tensions related to funding negotiations were a practical obstacle in allowing us to address larger scale issues, that a lack of resources to underpin the work of PCAG limited our progress, and that the committee was too large and unwieldy to be truly effective.

I am pleased to say that it was clear that these concerns were noted and that at our first meeting of 2005 the support from the health department was notable. It is also clear that we have a clear mandate from Dr Neale Fong to provide strategic advice regarding palliative care in the context of the planned health care reforms. As well, in the past year the following achievements have occurred:

At the urging of PCAG and providers in the community a price review of palliative care was undertaken with what appears to be a fair, and more realistic result (just over \$500 per day for care of public patients).

Dr Neale Fong agreed to a restructure of PCAG so that a small executive steering group could be formed to help guide the work of PCAG more effectively, with reporting back to the larger reference group.

Resources have been received from the Commonwealth and allocated to our work (\$100k) over the next 6-8 months. This funding will allow us to fund dedicated expertise to undertake the project.

In addition to the helpful input of Mr Clory Carrello, Mr Kingsley Burton has been assigned to work with our group as a representative of the Health Reform Implementation Taskforce, so that we can provide our advice through him regarding the State Palliative Care Plan and the most appropriate ways to operationalise the recommendations related to palliative care emerging from the Reid review.

At the first 2005 meeting of PCAG, the committee provided advice regarding the type of representation that should be present on the Executive Steering Committee of PCAG to ensure inclusion of nursing, medical, community, population health, and a range of palliative care settings. Potential nominees for the executive were identified at the meeting. The nominees were endorsed by Dr Neale Fong. The membership includes Dr Anil Tandon, Mrs. Eleanor Roderick, Mr Steve Carmody, Ms Amanda Leigh, Dr Lorna Rosenwax, Mr Gareth Griffith and Dr Scott Blackwell. The Executive Steering Committee will oversee the project for the next 6- 8 months. The detailed project plan has been drafted and will be reviewed and finalised by the Executive Steering Committee in early February, 2005. The detailed plan includes regular reports back to the full PCAG Committee and to the Health Reform Implementation Taskforce.

The project will involve a careful review of all recent reports regarding the palliative care services, needs and programs. Special needs groups will be considered such as children, individuals with non-malignant disease, people living in rural and remote communities and individuals from non-dominant cultural groups. The project will also involve interviews with key experts and stakeholders in the community with specific understandings of the many contextual issues important to constructing appropriate approaches to palliative care in a range of care settings. The results of the literature review and interviews will be synthesised to arrive at a draft model(s) for palliative care delivery within WA. These draft models will be presented to focus groups and key stakeholders within the State to ascertain the feasibility, suitability and merit of the various approaches. Recommendations will be made via the Steering Committee to PCAG and the Health Reform Committee in a timely manner to ensure that the project stays well linked to strategic decision points in the health reform process.

We know that this will be an extremely busy time for the Steering Committee and PCAG and appreciate the energy and expertise that will be mustered to participate in this important process. However, the resources provided will allow us to apply the necessary expertise to this very important project. To this end, we have employed Dr Samar Aoun who has expertise in medical demography to assume the role of Project Manager. Dr Aoun recently completed a project for Palliative Care Australia on the social impact of caring for someone with a terminal illness that was launched by Hon Minister Tony Abbott at Palliative Care Australia Week in May 2004. Dr Aoun also presented the results of this project at PCWA's meeting in May here in Perth, WA. Dr Aoun is therefore well placed to help manage this project and provide us with a timely report. Dr Aoun will be assisted by Mrs Jayne Walton who was the Project Manager for the Australian Palliative Residential Aged Care Project (APRAC) and Project Manager for the Volunteers in Palliative Residential Aged Care Project (VPRAC). Mrs Walton's familiarity with the recent reports related to palliative care will allow her to quickly synthesise existing information to help inform the project.

I would welcome any queries or thoughts on the process we are embarking upon and look forward to keeping you informed of the development of the project as it unfolds. This is a challenging but positive time in palliative care, and one that has potential to allow us to provide a comprehensive template for future palliative care services.



Linda J Kristjanson -The Cancer Council WA Chair of Palliative Care & Chair, PCAG

PCWA ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

DAME GILL OLIVER

Director Of Service, Macmillan Cancer Relief, UK

“CANCER AND PALLIATIVE CARE: SHARING OUR PRACTICE - THE UK EXPERIENCE”

On: Tuesday 8 March 2005
At: St. John of God Hospital
Function Room, Level 3
Subiaco, Perth
Time: 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm Start
Until 7.00 pm
Light Refreshments will be served



RSVP: pcwainc@palliativecarewa.asn.au

PCWA ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF

NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 22 - 28 MAY 2005

By The Hon. Minister for Health

PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK BREAKFAST

At: The Perth Zoo Function Centre
Labouchere Road
South Perth

When: Monday 23 May 2005

Time: 7.00 am for 7.30 am Start
Until 9.00 am

Cost: \$20-00 per person
\$15-00 PC Services Volunteers



To register please email the PCWA office on pcwainc@palliativecarewa.asn.au or phone (08) 9212 4330. Please note that the office is only staffed on a part time basis so please leave a message on the answerphone.



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



THE 5TH STATE CANCER NURSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2005

'PATIENTS, PROJECTS, POSSIBILITIES'

9 – 11 March 2005 - Esplanade Hotel, The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA

This exciting conference is a combined effort between the Cancer Nursing Research Network, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Edith Cowan University

PUBLIC FORUM

The 5th Annual Cancer Nursing Conference 2005 will commence with a free Public Forum held on the evening of 9 March 2005, this will be open to the public and conference delegates.

The Forum will host the following presentation by: Professor Don Iverson.

MOTIVATIONS FOR USE AND INFORMATION CANCER PATIENTS CAN ACCESS TO DETERMINE WHICH COMPLEMENTARY / ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES MIGHT BE USEFUL.

Refreshments will be provided to conclude the evening. Places for the Public forum are limited and registration is essential.

To register please contact Jan Low 9346 2019

CHANGES TO HOLLYWOOD'S PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT AND HOMECARE SERVICE

Hollywood's Palliative Care Unit (PCU) has now been running for more than 20 years and is recognised as a leader in the delivery of palliative care. We are currently examining our model of care delivery to ensure we continue to best meet the needs of our patients.

As part of this process, the decision has been made that patients cared for by the PCU Homecare service will now be cared for by the Silver Chain Hospice Care Service. The patients are being individually visited by our staff to explain how the Silver Chain Hospice Service Care will care for their needs. Hollywood will conduct all the necessary paperwork required and organise a comprehensive transfer letter to each patient's general practitioner and Silver Chain team. Hollywood is committed to ensuring that no disruption to care is experienced as a result of the transition to the Silver Chain HospiceCare Service.

The senior medical cover at Hollywood's PCU will now be: **Dr Sarah Pickstock (Medical Director), Dr Alice Phua, Dr Chris Jacklyn and Dr Kirsten Auret.**

Dr Chris Jacklyn is an experienced palliative care specialist who joined our team in January from Cottage Hospice. Dr Kirsten Auret is currently away on maternity leave for seven months.

Hollywood Private Hospital's PCU will continue to deliver expert care to private, public and veteran patients and will continue to offer:

Inpatient Care / A hospital-based consultancy service / Outpatient Review / Junior Medical Staff / Nursing Social Work / Occupational Therapy / Chaplaincy / Volunteers

Referrals to Hollywood Private Hospital's PCU can be made on Tel: (08) 9346 6000 (Page CNM) or for an outpatient clinic appointment with the PCU ward secretary Tel: (08) 9346 6450