

Clinical Connections

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The Inaugural Consortium Award for Leadership & Excellence

The Executive Committee has presented the Inaugural Consortium Award for Leadership and Excellence in 2007 to Barbara Dobson from Melbourne Citymission Palliative Care (MCMPC). Barbara has been instrumental in the establishment and ongoing productivity of the Koori and Torres Strait Islander Focus Group and has established productive relationships between the mainstream and Koori organizations in our region in addition to her complex role at MCMPC.

Barbara has maintained

optimism and persistence in the face of difficulties and has remained positive, continually focusing on building trust between a number of diverse organizations. In partnership with Joanne Harrison from VACCHO she has been the driving force in the development and strengthening of relationships with the Koori community and has facilitated the development of a Koori and Torres Strait Islander Regional Plan by the Focus Group.

In partnership with Koori colleagues, Barbara has negotiated

mandated Cultural Sensitivity training and has encouraged the adoption of Cultural Safety principles within the region and has redesigned the National competency to create a competency for use in local services.

Barbara has also presented on behalf of our region at the 9th National Palliative Care Conference Indigenous pre-workshop with Brad Brown, Co-Chair from Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

Congratulations Barbara!

Upcoming Events

Banksia Palliative Care Service Inc. 2008 Major Fundraising Celebrity Entertainment Auction Night—Friday 11 April.

Full details provided on the website:
www.northwestpalliative.com.au

“Massage, Cancer & More Workshops”

AAMT, Victoria University and Quest for Life join together for two very special presentations. Gayle MacDonald from USA will present the morning session. Her expertise derives from more than 10 years work in the USA with oncology patients at the Oregon Health & Science University.

Eleanor Oyston from the Quest for Life Foundation will present the afternoon session. Eleanor is considered a seminal figure in medical massage in Australia. She created, developed and regularly teaches “Massage, Cancer & More” workshops around Australia for massage therapists and oncology nurses.

For further information and registration forms on these workshops being held on Saturday 1st March, 2008, please visit the website, <http://www.northwestpalliative.com.au>

Clinical Connections cont

Being Smarter: A partnership model of Palliative Care

Melbourne Citymission Palliative Care and Royal District Nursing Service are currently undertaking a project being funded under the Local Palliative Care Grants Program Funding Round 3—Care Planning from the Department of Health and Ageing. The aim of the project is to design a model of care that will enable both services to further enhance the delivery of community-based palliative care services for clients residing in the Darebin, Hume, Moreland and Yarra Local Government Areas.

To date, the project is on track with the project plan, and the following have been achieved recently:

- Current and future projections of the local demography

based on the latest census details as well as Local Government Area information;

- A literature review regarding the provision of community-based palliative care; this has included an international perspective as well as that of Australia;
- A service description of the current Integrated Care Model;
- A review of this model against the Palliative Care Australia Standards;
- An assessment of the most recent death statistics and client referral patterns to both

organizations.

At the end of 2007, a workshop was held with senior staff from both organizations to further discuss elements required in a model for the future, and this was recently repeated at Melbourne Palliative Care. A follow up workshop with management is due at the end of March. It is expected that a pilot of this new model of practice will roll out later this year.

For more information, please contact the Project Officer, Sally Brown at Melbourne Citymission via email sbrown@mcm.org.au or telephone 9486-2666 (Monday—Thursday).

Written by: Sally Brown

The Health Promoting Palliative Care (HPPC) Project

The Health Promoting Palliative Care (HPPC) Project aims to expand the capacity of the community to help care for and support those people who are living with a life threatening illness. In his work "Compassionate Cities" (2005) Allan Kellehear discusses at length the spiritual, social and psychological benefits of a health promotion approach that encourages us to move toward viewing death and dying as a normal part of life, where families and individuals benefit from maintaining a close connection with the community. Health Promoting Palliative Care is based on the same broad theoretical foundations as general health promotion—a whole of community approach that provides education and information, and seeks to influence

policy.

The role of the HPPC co-ordinator is to work with the regional consortia to implement a planned approach to implementing and embedding the fundamentals of the philosophy within service organizations. Secondly, the co-ordinator will work with local community organizations and groups to raise awareness of HPPC.

Co-ordinators from the three regions involved in the project have attended 2 days of initial training facilitated by LaTrobe University Palliative Care Unit and Palliative Care Victoria. This has not only been a great orientation to the Health Promoting Palliative Care concept, but also a wonderful opportunity for the co-

ordinators to work together and exchange ideas. Meetings at LaTrobe will continue on a monthly basis in the initial stages of the project, and work has begun on meeting with palliative care providers and building networks within the community.

Written by: Helen Corbett

(Health Promoting Palliative Care Co-ordinator
North & West Metropolitan Region)

Clinical Connections cont

Turning Policy into Practice (PintoP) Project Summary

The purpose of this project is to gain knowledge on a regional basis of how people access Palliative Care services, including barriers and facilitators to such access. What would an ideal pathway in to palliative care services for clients and patients look like? How do patients and clients move between services within the region and beyond?

Goal:

To develop, implement and evaluate a region-wide palliative care pathway. Such a pathway will be informed by the following principles:

- It will be based on current research evidence;
- It will be underpinned by key palliative care principles as documented in a range of Australian palliative care policies and guidelines;
- Whilst containing essential elements of high quality care it will aim to be non-prescriptive and adaptable to the unique needs and wishes of individual patients, their families and carers;
- It will seek to accommodate cultural, spiritual and social diversity;
- It will aim to facilitate improved palliative care service and social diversity;
- It will aim to facilitate improved palliative care service reach to special needs groups in the North West region such as refugees, children, indigenous Australians and other culturally and linguistically diverse groups;
- It will seek to improve the efficiency of use of scarce, specialist palliative care resources through improving linkage and support to the primary and community sector in the provision of palliative care services.
- Collate the range of services offered across the region;
- Through interviews and/or focus groups, explore stakeholders' (including consumers) perceptions of access to palliative care services;
- Analyse information collected;
- Based on analysis and review of relevant research in the area, develop an optimal pathway to palliative care services.

The appointed Project Officer is Ian Millard, located at Melbourne City-mission Palliative Care. The duration of the project is to run for approximately 18 months.

Written By: Ian Millard

(Policy into Practice Officer,
North & West Metropolitan Region)

Methodology:

A range of methods will be used. These include:

- Mapping current pathways for client/patient access to services across the region;

Four Funerals in One day Set to Tour Victoria!

The play that premiered at the 9th National Palliative Care Conference to great acclaim is now being prepared to "go on the road". With a cast of well known professional actors, "Four Funerals in One Day" is a great tool for services to use to both promote palliative care and raise funds for their agencies.

Expressions of interest are now being invited from interested agencies, regions, service clubs and health services and can be submitted via the brochure available on the website—www.northwestpalliative.com.au under 'General Information' and then click on 'News'.

Don't miss this opportunity to both entertain and educate your community!