

## Residential Aged Care Newsletter

Issue 3 Sep 2011

**Three Aged Care Forums** were held across the region in August with a total of 76 participants from 45 ACF's attending. Representatives from Specialist Palliative Care Providers, Division of GP's, Monash University, Southern Health, ROSS Team, RDNS and Department of Health and Ageing also attended.

### Aged Care Standards.....

#### Danni Campbell-Manley

from Aged and Community Care Victoria talked about the new Aged Care Standards and the link with a Palliative Approach.

Of particular relevance are the expected outcomes around Advance Care Planning and End-of-Life Care.

Although the Draft Standards are not ratified as yet forward planning will ensure that facilities are well prepared by embedding policies and procedures for delivering a palliative approach to care.



The **Workshop Sessions** were themed around four topics inviting comment on interest in implementation of these activities with support from the consortium.

**The Palliative Care Toolkit**

**Palliative Care Portfolio Holders**

**End of Life Care Plans**

**Regional Training**

Robyn Allan, Aged Care Project Worker & forum Participants at Andrew Kerr Centre, Mornington

The new standards can be viewed on

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/ageing-rescare-accreditation-standards-draft.htm>

All feedback has been collated and will be presented and discussed at the next Project Advisory Committee Meeting to be held at the end of October. The information will assist in planning the strategy for the way forward for the Aged Care Project that hopefully meets YOUR needs.

A big **Thank You** to all those who attended!

**1** region **4** palliative care service delivery models  
**180** residential aged care facilities  
Strategies for a co-ordinated approach

# The Productivity Commission's final report into *Caring for Older Australians* has been released and argues that palliative care should be the core business of aged care.

*'Palliative care should be the core business of aged care'*

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is delighted that the Productivity Commission has recognised the importance of palliative care as a fundamental part of the aged care system and has adopted many of PCA's recommendations in its final report, *Caring for Older Australians*.

*'Educating the community and health professionals, and encouraging the development of advance care plans will go some way to ensuring that people receive the care they want, in the place of their choice, tailored to their individual needs.'*

Dr Luxford.

'The Report argues strongly that palliative and end of life care should be core business for aged care services', said Dr Yvonne Luxford, PCA Chief Executive Officer. 'With 50,000 Australians dying each year in residential aged care facilities alone, there is no denying that we need to embed palliative care throughout the aged care system and ensure that all older Australians have access to the highest quality palliative and end of life care possible.'

The Report calls on the government to ensure that residential and community care providers receive appropriate payments for palliative care. 'We know that people would prefer to die at home, or at least have choice in where they spend their final days', said Dr Luxford. 'The

recommendations propose a flexible funding model which supports individual choice and will help us ensure that people are assisted to die in the place of their choice, with the people they wish to be present.'

The Commission has also identified the need to fund education for aged care staff and carers to increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of a palliative approach to care of the elderly.

'The report acknowledges the skills mix needed in aged care and it is fantastic to see the Commission recommend that end of life care should be a basic competency for aged care workers – this will go along way to improving the quality of end of life care delivered to older Australians,' said Dr Luxford.

The report highlights the importance of Advance Care Planning in ensuring people have greater choice and control over their end of life care options.

'Educating the community and health professionals, and encouraging the development of advance care plans will go some way to ensuring that people receive the care they want, in the place of their choice, tailored to their individual needs,' said Dr Luxford.

'We commend the Productivity Commission for delivering this excellent report. The challenge will be to now transform these recommendations into reality. We are encouraged by the government's commitment to reform and Palliative Care Australia looks forward to working with the government and the aged care sector to implement these recommendations for palliative care.'

**The full report can be accessed through the Palliative Care Australia website:**

[www.palliativecare.org.au/](http://www.palliativecare.org.au/)

## The Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting

were developed as a companion document to the *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care*. The target audience for the Guidelines will be health professionals providing palliative care to older people in the community, including general practitioners, community nurses, care workers and organisations providing support for people being cared for at home.

**RESOURCE OF INTEREST  
COMPAC GUIDELINES**

Four documents have been developed as part of the Guidelines package, including:

- *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting;*
- *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting Volume 2 - Processes Underpinning Best Practice Recommendations* (includes evidence and references supporting the Guidelines);
- A supporting booklet for care workers; and
- A supporting booklet for older people receiving care, their families and friends, has also been developed to support the implementation of the Guidelines.

**You may download this document in PDF format from Department of Health and Ageing Website**

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/palliativecare-pubs-compac-guidelines.htm>

Hardcopies of the document are not yet available.