

Residential Aged Care Newsletter

Issue 5 Feb 2012

We are now well into 2012 and ready to move forward in our plans for training and supporting a network of Link Nurses in the Aged Care Facilities across the Southern Metropolitan Region.



Welcome
Francis Icasiano

We welcome Francis Icasiano who joins Robyn Allan on the the project team. Francis comes with a strong background in project management and last year headed a palliative care/dementia project with Mercy Health which resulted in the production of an excellent resource for families of people in aged care facilities (ACF's).

Titled **'Affirming Life, What is a Palliative Approach', A Guide for Family & Friends with loved ones in Aged Care**, this resource has been endorsed by Palliative Care Victoria. Copies are being distributed to each of the Consortia and will be made available to ACF's through the project. It is online at:

http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Affirming-Life-a-palliative-approach-in-aged-care_-Guide-for-relatives.pdf

Consultation Forum

Once ACF's have registered their interest, SMRPCC will organise forums to provide more detailed information and opportunities for feedback and discussion with interested ACF's.

Peninsula Region

ACF's that are located in the Peninsula Hospice Service (PHS) and ROSS In-Reach team area will be aware that those services, in collaboration, are about to commence the second round of Palliative Care Portfolio Holder education for ACF staff in that region. SMRPCC have joined this collaboration and will be working closely with those services to deliver the education and training. PHS & ROSS have been generous in sharing their experiences and resources with SMRPCC and have 'led the way forward' for application of their model across the region. We acknowledge the great work that has been done.

Expressions of Interest for ACF's across the Peninsula region are therefore not relevant. However facilities from the southern region will be kept informed through the newsletter.

Link Nurse Network across the Region

We are planning to establish a Palliative Care Link Nurse Network in Aged Care Facilities across the Southern Region.

The key to the Link Nurse role is the ability to act as a resource and influence change within the organisation. As defined in the Palliative Approach (PA) Toolkit, the Link Nurse *'agrees to take on a special role, promoting and facilitating a palliative approach within the RACF.'*

As part of the Aged Care project the SMRPCC, through the Palliative Care Specialist Providers, will be providing education for staff from ACF's who wish to undertake the role of Link Nurse within that facility. The education sessions will:

- provide the attendee with knowledge and skills in a palliative approach to care
- require participants to apply this knowledge within the workplace
- commence later this year
- be delivered over a period of several months
- be provided at no charge
- need full support of ACF Management for the model to have impact on practice and the care of your residents

The initial training will be piloted with the number of participating facilities capped to allow:

- for the large number of ACF's in the region (approx 180)
- the education sessions to be refined and evaluated prior to rollout across the whole region

LINK NURSE LINK NURSE

Register your interest for the training

We are now inviting expressions of interest from ACF management for their facility to participate in the training. ACF's will be invited to send a maximum of 2 staff per facility at least one of whom must be a registered nurse.

Expressions of Interest will be open until April 20th and can be registered via:

- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dHJ3eIZxQTEzQ3BZb0t3RUUVKWTdRMIE6MQ#gid=0>
- contacting Robyn Allan on 0409 139 371 or rallan@sepc.org.au
- SMRPCC website – *Aged Care Project*
<http://www.smrpalliativecare-consortium.org.au/viewinfopage.asp?id=11>

Worth a read

This document is well worth reading.....

National Aged Care Alliance – Aged Care Reform Series - PALLIATIVE CARE

http://www.naca.asn.au/Age_Well/Palliative%20care.pdf

And finally.....

The next Palliative Care Victoria Aged Care Special Interest Group (SIG) is on the 28 th of March, 9.30-12.30 and will be on Pain Management in Aged Care.

Guest speakers will be Regina Kendall, Clinical Nurse Educator, Grampians Regional Palliative Care Team and Irene Murphy, Coordinator of Clinical Services & Nurse Practitioner, Melbourne Citymission Palliative Care. There will also be an update on the implementation of the budget initiative – Aged Care Link Nurses from Ellen Sheridan, Palliative Care Unit, Department of Health.

All Aged Care SIGs are held at La Trobe University, Franklin St Melbourne Room FS10 and to find out what is scheduled through the year please contact Palliative Care Victoria on 9662 9644 or

info@pallcarevic.asn.au.

Cultural Diversity in Ageing 2012 Conference

Stories to Inspire

This two day program will consist of keynote speakers, workshop presenters and poster presentations representing a broad range of interests within the aged care and related sectors including industry representatives, providers, practitioners, educators, researchers and consumer advocates.

Date: Thursday, 7 June 2012 to Friday, 8 June 2012
Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, VIC
Phone: 03 8823 7979

For further information:

<http://culturaldiversity.com.au/conference-registration>

