

## Residential Aged Care Newsletter

Issue 6 Jul 2012

### LINK NURSE NETWORK UPDATE

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#### Expressions of Interest Closed

We have now received expressions of interest from 20 facilities in the southern region. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being developed outlining the roles and responsibilities the Link Nurses and participating organisations. The first round of training is planned for September/October.

If your facility has not yet done so don't worry, you can still [express interest](#) and participate in later training rounds. The Consortium is planning ongoing training and support for Link Nurses from Aged Care Facilities across the Southern Region and the establishment of a Link Nurse Network to foster cross-organisational support and resource sharing.

Training will be aligned with the 3 modules incorporated in the Palliative Approach Toolkit with the aim of supporting Aged Care Facilities across the Southern Region to implement a Palliative Approach.

#### Presentation on the Palliative Approach Toolkit by A/Prof Deborah Parker



SMRPCC invited A/Prof Deborah Parker (Queensland University) to present to aged care facilities and stakeholders in the southern region her experiences with developing and implementing [The Palliative Approach Toolkit](#). It was also a great opportunity to discuss how we can align the Toolkit to the Link Nurse Training for our region.

You can [see short videos of Deb's presentation on our website](#) and please feel free to share the video links with your colleagues and other staff.

#### The Role of Specialist Palliative Care in RACF's

It is acknowledged that palliative care is core business for Aged Care Facilities with an increasing percentage of separations by death in residential aged care facilities from 70% in 1993 to 87.8% in 2008 (Aged Care Reform Series - Palliative Care). The majority of residents are cared for from admission to death by aged care staff, as the primary care providers, with no need for Specialist Palliative Care intervention. Occasionally a resident will have symptoms that are complex requiring a referral to a Specialist Palliative Care Service who provide support and advice on interventions for management of the symptom/s. Specialist Palliative Care Services are provided in each region, and it is important that Aged Care Facilities are aware of the Specialist Service Provider for their area, the referral processes and the level of support provided. Strong relationships with Specialist Palliative Care Services and Aged Care Facilities enable a supportive team approach to palliative care for residents.

## Shaping the Future of Palliative Care

The Productivity Commission tells us that palliative care is core business for residential aged care but are we providing quality care, particularly to people with dementia? Professor Fran McInerney will run a workshop for only 32 people at the PCV conference on talking about dementia and dying. Following a brief overview of its pathophysiology and the relevance of the palliative approach the workshop will focus on the use of a specialised discussion tool that participants will receive before the event. You will leave the session feeling more confident about talking about death and dying and the knowledge of a tool to assist with these discussions.

This is just one of many sessions relevant to those who work in aged care. Join us on 23 & 24 August



### Online Registration

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### Conference Program Now Available

Please read the registration information on our website and download the full conference program before proceeding to register online.

<http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au/more-info/events/pcv-conference/pcv-conference-registration/>

**There are 15 workshops with limited places available – you must register online to reserve a place**

Worth a look

### New Podcast: Pain Management in Aged Care

Regina Kendall and Irene Murphy, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners working in Victoria, gave this excellent presentation on the assessing and managing the pain of residents in aged care services at the Palliative Care in Aged Care Special Interest Group meeting in February. The podcast and complementary presentation are available at:

<http://www.pcvlibrary.asn.au/display/sep/Pain+management+in+aged+care>

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### Aged Care Nursing Scholarships are Now Open

Undergraduate, post graduate, nurse practitioner, re-entry and continuing education scholarships are all available and applications close on 31 August. For more information go to <http://bit.ly/Agedschol>

### Farewell to Francis Icasiano

In the last Newsletter Francis was introduced as a member of the Aged Care Project Team. Francis was employed for a six month period to help establish our model and now the time is up he is on the move.....

A big thanks to Francis for his assistance and best wishes for future endeavours.

