

CENTRE for PALLIATIVE CARE

Enhancing care
through excellence in
education and research



Centre for Palliative Care Strategic Plan 2013 - 2018



ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL
MELBOURNE

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

From the Director

The Centre for Palliative Care is a state-wide service and this strategic plan is important for the future of palliative care. An increasing number of Victorians are requiring palliative care. This plan will assist in enabling access to evidence based services delivered by well-trained health professionals.

We plan to initiate research that will add to the knowledge base for quality palliative care provision. Working with other renowned institutions at a national and international level we will contribute to and be informed by global palliative care research.

We will continue to demonstrate leadership in palliative care education and training. Our education strategy will ensure health care professionals in all disciplines have access to training programs that are evidence based and result in the best clinical outcomes for patients and their families. Our education programs will be delivered by experts and made available to palliative care services across Victoria and interstate.

This plan was developed by the Centre's staff and the Centre's Advisory Committee whose representatives include The Department of Health, The University of Melbourne, St Vincent's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Palliative Care Victoria, The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement, Palliative care inpatient and home based services. The resulting vision, mission, and strategy provide a sound direction for improving palliative care provision.



Professor Peter Hudson

Director

Centre for Palliative Care



Strategic Direction

The Centre for Palliative Care (the Centre) is a state-wide service based at St Vincent's Hospital and is a Collaborative Centre of The University of Melbourne. The Centre's primary function is to provide training and conduct research in palliative care. It provides programs and services in its own right and in association with a range of other organisations involved in the education, research and delivery of palliative care programs.

The Centre receives core funding from the Department of Human Services, Victoria, research funding from Victorian and Australian government agencies and other funding bodies, revenue from student fees and funding for special purposes from the Centre's Foundation.

Mission

The Centre enhances excellence in palliative care through:

Conducting research, with an emphasis on:

- The provision of palliative care.
- Psychosocial support.
- Clinical studies.

Developing education programs for:

- Health professionals who want to specialise in palliative care.
- Generalist health care providers who require training in the fundamentals of palliative care.
- Connecting research, education and clinical practice to inform knowledge.

Vision

As Victoria's state-wide Centre for Palliative Care we will provide academic leadership and collegial support. In so doing we will assist Victorians to receive world's best practice palliative care.

The Centre will also be recognised internationally as a leader in palliative care education and research.

Values and Guiding Principles

- *Care and Support* - above all, to design research studies and training programs that lead to high quality palliative care and support for patients and their families.
- *Learning and Knowledge* - the creation of evidence based knowledge in palliative care is paramount. We will contribute to the global knowledge of palliative care and disseminate this knowledge to those in the health care workforce.
- *Collaboration with others* - we recognise the importance of working with others in carrying out our state-wide role. We acknowledge and respect the diverse range of goals and aspirations of our partners and allies and will work in a spirit of collaboration to achieve common objectives.
- *Quality* - underpinning all our efforts is the focus on quality. We will set the standard for high quality education and research through critiquing and evaluating our endeavours.

Research: Strategic Outcomes

1. Build research capacity through the evolution of three program areas:
 - (1) Palliative care provision: exploring systems and approaches to improve direct care.
 - (2) Psychosocial support - focusing on interventions to enhance psychosocial support for patients and families.
 - (3) Clinical studies - projects that examine symptom management initiatives.
2. Foster links with state, national and international palliative care academics and institutions.
3. Continue to be a major influence on the evolution of the Palliative Care Research Network Victoria and the International Palliative Care Family Carer Research Collaborative.
4. Foster translation of knowledge into practice through:
 - (a) Dissemination of best evidence and
 - (b) Evaluation of teaching and learning strategies.
5. Scope requirements for the development of an educational research program that focuses on evaluation and innovation in teaching and learning.
6. Leadership and advocacy related to initiatives to improve palliative care research.

Education: Strategic Outcomes

1. Continue to provide and foster the education and training of healthcare professionals working in specialist palliative care by:
 - (1) Expanding the range of postgraduate palliative care programs.
 - (2) Building on CPC auspiced state-wide education programs, including the Victorian Palliative Medicine Training Program, the Victorian Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Collaboration and the Victorian End-of-Life Care Pathways initiative.
 - (3) Facilitating the process of the translation of knowledge. Dissemination of best evidence into practice for teachers & learners.
 - (4) Supporting the development of future leaders in palliative care.
2. Establish programs of palliative care education that:
 - (1) Target generalist health providers working in a range of care settings.
 - (2) Provide a flexible system for 'outreach' customised education activities.
 - (3) Expand options for blended education delivery modes, including the integration of eLearning processes.
 - (4) Explore and contribute to training opportunities in resource poor countries.
3. Ensure all CPC education programs for teachers and learners continue to reflect the best education practices and evidence; that they are evaluated to reflect relevant accreditation policies and standards.
4. Develop an education conceptual framework that underpins the CPC education program, including an eLearning strategy and implementation plan.