



# Palliative Care Link Nurse

## Developing Clinical Partnerships

Newsletter: No1. June 2013

### Hi Everyone

Thank you once again to being part of this program. The aims of this project are to strengthen the nursing capacity in local communities to provide quality evidenced based palliative care for patients and their families with life limiting illnesses

The Link Nurse program recognises the need to enhance and build upon the existing local care networks providing palliative care and promotes the most efficient use of the Specialist Palliative Care Services to support the care provided in local communities.

### Palliative Care link Nurse Workshop: Developing Clinical Partnerships: 6<sup>th</sup> June

We had the first Link Nurse Workshop on the 6<sup>th</sup> June at Eat your Greens Eugowra and it was a fantastic day enjoyed by all. The standard of all presentations was very high and all nurses left feeling that they had learned something new.

We had 10 link nurses attend: *Kerry Forte* and *Ann Stenhouse* from Eugowra, *Carolyn Wythes* and *Liz Noble* from Canowindra, *Debra Caldwell* from Molong, *Lynne Petersen* and *Bijo Garvasess* from Grenfel, *Beverley Lazarou*, *Marie Peel*, *Sharon Van- Dartel* from Cowra

Two more stages of the program are yet to be completed and that is the 2 clinical placements which includes the completion of the PEPA workbook that you received at the workshop. (If you would like any help with the palliative care project please let me know.

For the first placement Link Nurses will be contacting the Palliative Care Nurses at either Bathurst, Parkes or Forbes, we are hoping that everybody will have their first placement completed by the end of July. In August we can then begin the arrangements for the second placements with the Orange Palliative Care team.

### Link Nurse Teleconference 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 3.00 pm

I have booked a teleconference for the 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 3.00 pm. This teleconference will provide an opportunity for Link Nurses to discuss clinical issues and other issues related to palliative care in their area. Members of the Orange Palliative Care Nurses will be attending so this teleconference will provide a great opportunity to discuss cases with them.

### Palliative Care Resources

I have included a hyperlink to "CareSearch". This really is one of the best Australian evidenced based palliative care resources on the web and if you get a chance check it out!!

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/Caresearch/Default.aspx>

**Local Palliative Care Education: Dr Michael Noel: Cowra visit 25<sup>th</sup> July and Orange 24<sup>th</sup> July**

Dr Michael Noel is the Director of the Nepean Cancer Care Centre and has extensive experience in Palliative Care education and will be conducting a 3 and a half hour workshop, this will build on his previous session he held in Bathurst on May 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend you will need to fill in the registration form and forward it to Medicare Local. The sessions are filling quickly so you will need to get them in soon.

**Local Palliative Care Education: Dr Frank Brennan: Bathurst Education Session. 27<sup>th</sup> August, Heritage Building.**

Dr Frank Brennan will be talking about Palliative Care and its role in the management of patients with advanced Renal disease. He will be covering not only symptom management issues but also ethical issues regarding the discussions of ceasing dialysis when the treatments are no longer providing symptom relief and are becoming burdensome to the patient. I will let you know when the registrations to that session are available.

**Palliative Care Clinic: Orange Health Service**

A reminder that The Orange Palliative Care Service has a monthly Palliative Care Clinic in Orange this is attended by Dr Neil Cooney and a fortnightly Registrar clinic (Palliative Care Physician Sacred Heart Health Service, St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst)

These services are part of a Memorandum of Understanding that WNSW LHD has with Sacred Heart Palliative Care Service. Palliative Care Nurses and Medical officers can also contact the Sacred Heart Health service if they require advice on a palliative care patient. This service can be particularly useful when there is some doubt as to which way to proceed with a complex patient. The GP can ring Sacred Heart and ask for the either Dr Cooney or the physician on call and discuss the patient. I suggest that if possible the GP should contact Dr Christie in the first instance.

If you would like a patient reviewed by the either the Registrar or Dr Cooney you will need to get a referral from the patients GP before attending the clinic. You will also need to contact the Palliative Care Nurses from Orange to organise a time and date when your patient can be seen.

**Do Rural Primary health care nurses feel equipped for palliative care?**

I have attached an article written by the director of Cancer and Clinical Innovations Far West; Melissa Cumming, I would be really interested in hearing your thoughts on it and whether the Link Nurses program helps to relieve some of the problems raised?