

ANZSPM Member Alert – 26 September 2019

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Government News

QLD: Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying

ANZSPM was invited to give evidence at the inquiry's public hearing on 13 September in Brisbane. ANZSPM was represented at the hearing by members and former ANZSPM Presidents Drs Carol Douglas and Phillip Good. The broadcast of the hearing can be viewed here (starting at around 3 hours 54 minutes of the recording). The date for reporting on the inquiry was extended from 30 November 2019 to 31 March 2020.

WA: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019

The bill was introduced on 7 August 2019 and was debated and passed the lower house at third reading on 24 September (45 ayes to 11 noes). The upper house is expected to debate and vote on the bill by the end of this year. The bill can be viewed on the WA Parliament website here.

ANZSPM Annual General Meeting report

The ANZSPM AGM was held during the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference on Thursday 12 September 2019. It was good to see so many of our members in attendance.

ANZSPM welcomed new President A/Prof Leeroy William. A/Prof William is currently Clinical Director of Supportive and Palliative Care at Eastern Health and has served on the ANZSPM Council since 2016, the last year as President-Elect. A/Prof William takes over from Prof Meera Agar who completed her two-year term as President at the meeting. Prof Agar continues on Council as Immediate Past-President and we thank her for her leadership over the past two years.

Dr Christine Mott was also elected to Council at the meeting. Dr Mott previously served as a co-opted Councillor over the past 12 months. Dr Mott brings experience as a dual trained General Paediatrician and Paediatric Palliative Medicine Physician.

Dr Eswaran Waran stepped down from Council at the meeting after serving for the past year and we thank him for his contribution over that period.

The current make-up of ANZSPM Council is:

- A/Prof Leeroy William (President)
- Prof Meera Agar (Immediate Past-President)
- Dr Rachel Wiseman (Aotearoa Committee Chair)
- Dr David Holden
- Dr Chi Li
- Dr Jane Greville
- Dr Emily Cooper
- Dr Kim Caldwell
- Dr Christine Mott

- Prof Gregory Crawford (ex-officio)

At the meeting, members considered and unanimously supported special resolutions to convert the association to a Company Limited by Guarantee and to adopt the new constitution presented with the notice of meeting papers. The administrative actions required to give effect to these resolutions will be implemented over the coming months. Thank you to members who attended the meeting and submitted proxy forms expressing support for these changes.

Members can view the ANZSPM Audited Financial Statements 2018-19 in the Members area on our website under "Notices". You will need to log in to view.

ANZSPM Council seeking Trainee Representative

ANZSPM Council Member Dr Kim Caldwell recently completed her training and as a result the Council no longer includes a Trainee Member. It is considered important to have a Trainee Member on Council who can contribute views from a trainee perspective and also to support the ANZSPM office with coordination of Trainee Days.

We are now seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from a Trainee Member interested in joining Council. More experienced members of ANZSPM are asked to encourage trainees who may be suited to the role to apply.

The EOI form can be found in the website Members Area under Notices. We will also be sending out a separate email to trainee members shortly. EOI forms should be submitted by email by **Wednesday 16 October 2019** to: submissions@anzspm.org.au.

External Survey on Genomic Medicine

We recently circulated an external survey on genomic medicine inviting voluntary member participation.

Australian Genomics, an NH&MRC-funded study, wishes to hear from non-genetic medical specialists who work clinically in Australia about genomics in healthcare, present and future. Note: this survey is not for clinical geneticists, oncologists or general practitioners as they are undertaking separate projects in these areas. It doesn't matter if you do or don't know much about this, or don't currently incorporate genomics into your practice; your opinions, views and experiences are considered valuable.

Click [here](#) to complete the 15-minute anonymous, online survey by September 30, 2019. For queries, contact [Dr Amy Nisselle](#). This is an NH&MRC-funded Australian Genomics activity (University of Melbourne HREC 1646785.8).

RACP Pomegranate Health Podcasts

This month the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) released the following two Pomegranate Health podcast episodes on opioids which might be of interest to ANZSPM members:

[Ep51: Getting off the Opioids- Part 1](#)

Australia and New Zealand have seen a fourfold increase in opioid use over the last thirty years. Most of this prescribing has been for chronic non-cancer pain, but there is little evidence to support this indication. This podcast discusses some of the latest studies that provide evidence against the efficacy of opioid use for chronic non-cancer pain. It explains how to identify patients that have developed dependence on or addiction to opioids and how to wean them off this medication. It describes an

alternative approach to therapy that involves breaking maladaptive pain associations in the nervous system.

[Ep52: Opioids Part 2- Regulation and Marketing](#)

This episode looks at influencers of opioid prescribing. Firstly asking which are the opioids most commonly leading to dependence and why are they prescribed. Then discussing the mixed messages that prescribers are getting from guidelines and pharmaceutical regulation, not to mention promotional campaigns by pharmaceutical companies. In Tasmania these influences have been countered by education, regulation and real-time prescription monitoring.

More information on Pomegranate Health and more episodes can be found [here](#).

Reminder: ANZSPM Membership expired 30 June – RENEWAL PERIOD ENDS 30 SEPTEMBER!

It's renewal time. Your ANZSPM membership provides access to the following benefits:

- **Biennial conference and other major ANZSPM events:** attend at a reduced registration fee.
- **ANZSPM Newsletter:** three editions per year with detail of ANZSPM's activities and a range of interesting and educational articles relevant to our members.
- **Reduced subscription fees on select journals**
- **Regular member email updates:** providing timely and current information about news and events of interest to palliative medicine practitioners.
- **At least two trainee days per year:** providing trainees with a much needed opportunity for sharing training experiences and educational materials.
- **Member-only content:** the Members' area of the website includes a member contact list, member notices, presentations from past events and other resources.
- **Trainee awards:** for best presentation at nominated conferences.
- **Network and get involved:** opportunity to connect with fellow members, contribute to events and policy development, and join committees and special interest groups.
- **EAPC membership:** access to membership (and associated benefits) of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) via ANZSPM's national association membership.

Thank you to the **489 members who have renewed** for the 2019-20 membership year! If you haven't renewed, please note that your current membership expired on 30 June 2019 and after 30 September 2019 you will no longer be a financial member of ANZSPM. Please contact our Administration Officer Alina Murphy on info@anzspm.org.au with any membership queries (please note Alina is in the office Monday-Wednesday 9.30 to 2.30pm AEST).

Don't forget to check your membership type and update it if your circumstances have changed, particularly members currently holding a Trainee Membership.

Upcoming ANZSPM Events

ANZSPM Webinar 5 – Using clinical ethics to help with decisions around nutrition & hydration, Tues 15 October 2019 | Online

The next webinar in our series is now open for registration, initially to ANZSPM members only – registrations will be opened (and the external link shared) to non-members closer to the event to enable members to have first priority.

Using clinical ethics to help with decisions around nutrition and hydration - Dr Linda Sheahan & Dr Helen Irving

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 15, 2019 6:00 PM AEDT (Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney time)

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://racp.zoom.us/webinar/register/eb9329c968d4a63c8c34be5db4a05ad8>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

This webinar is part of the Specialty Society Webinar Service that is being undertaken by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in partnership with its affiliated specialty societies.

Other Upcoming Events

Other upcoming events that may be of interest to members:

End of Life Law for Clinicians, Wednesday 9 October 2019 | Online Webinar

End of Life Law for Clinicians free, online webinar will be held on the evening of Wednesday 9 October 2019 (6.30-8.00pm AEST; 7.30-9.00pm AEDT; 7.00-8.30pm ACDT; 6.00-7.30pm ACST; 4.30-6.00pm AWST). The webinar is open to all clinicians. CPD points and certificates of completion are available. To access the webinar, you require a computer with sound and video capabilities. For more details or to register visit the registration page. RSVPs close Monday 7 October 2019.

6th Public Health Palliative Care International Conference, 13-16 Oct 2019 | Blue Mountains NSW

There is now a significant body of evidence about the public health approach and this conference signals a new era for international research and practice. The PHPCI 2019 conference will provide a critical platform for sharing this emerging research and best practice examples from around the world and Australia. For more information and to register please click [here](#).

Dying to Yarn: Palliative Care for ATSI Communities Symposium, 1 Nov 2019 | Brisbane QLD

An undignified death leads to emotional and spiritual distress for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, families and communities. In raising awareness of Palliative Care and a good death, the Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach and Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education present *Dying to Yarn – Palliative Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities*.

Registrations are **open nationally** to all Indigenous Health Professionals, Elders and Community members. Non-Indigenous and Culturally Linguistically Diverse Health Professionals caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients are encouraged to register. This event will be held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Cost is \$249 and registrations close 13 October 2019. For further information, please contact Aurora Hodges or Eliza Munro on 07 3646 6216/07 3646 5251 or at DyingToYarn@health.qld.gov.au.

2019 Tasmanian Palliative Care Conference, 14-15 November 2019 | Hobart

This event will bring together the leaders in palliative care from across the State and nationally, for a two-day discussion on the future of the sector and how we can work together to ensure the best possible services for all Tasmanians with a life-limiting illness. Register [here](#).

World Congress on Itch, 17-19 November 2019 | Sydney NSW

This is the first time this Congress has been held in Australasia and is an excellent opportunity to gain a greater understanding of pruritus. Registration and details are at www.ifs2019.com.au/.

Renal Supportive Care Masterclass | 29 November 2019 | St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

The aim of the 1-day Masterclass is to provide clinicians with an educational event using the highest level of evidence drawn from the national and international literature combined with local experience in Renal Supportive Care. The target audience is Nephrology and Palliative Care Physicians, advanced trainees, nursing, management and allied health professionals with an interest in Renal Supportive Care.

Registrations are open [here](#). There will be 10% off for trainees, students and Renal Society of Australasia members (enter 10PCOFF in the Promocode box). For further information please email centre.palliativecare@svha.org.au

Pain Management Research Institute Symposium | 29 November 2019 | Sydney NSW

The one-day symposium "Descending the Analgesic Ladder: The how, when and why of opioid de-prescribing" will bring together local and international experts to address the complex challenges of de-prescribing opioid medications for patients with chronic pain.

Early Bird registration closes 30 September 2019! To read more and register, please click [here](#)

Palliative Care in Queensland Annual Summit, 2 December 2019 | Brisbane, QLD

The Palliative Care in Queensland Annual Summit is an annual, must-attend sector check-up. This innovative event includes a two-hour State and National update, roundtables (resulting in sector position statements), presentations, posters and exhibitors. To read the program and to register, please click [here](#).

MND NZ Research Conference, 9 December 2019 | Auckland NZ

MND New Zealand, in association with the NZ MND Research Network, will be hosting the Inaugural MND New Zealand Research Conference on the 9th December in Auckland. This is your opportunity to learn more about the latest developments in MND research and advances in the clinical management of MND. Speakers at the MND New Zealand Research conference are international experts in their field and key members of the New Zealand research community.

Early bird pricing is available until November 4th with discounted pricing for students, people with MND and their carers. Click [here](https://events.mnd.org.nz/research-conference/) (link=<https://events.mnd.org.nz/research-conference/>) to register or find out more. Please contact claire.reilly@mnd.org.nz with any queries or questions.

Building Palliative Care Clinical Research in NZ Workshop | 14 February 2020 | Wellington NZ

IMPACCT (University of Technology) in conjunction with Capital and Coast District Health Board (NZ) and Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) are running a workshop to introduce clinical research to new or experienced researchers in New Zealand.

Who should attend? Anyone with an interest in learning more about PaCCSC and conducting clinical research in palliative care. The workshop will be multi-disciplinary in focus.

Symptoms of Focus – Pain, Fatigue, Breathlessness, Appetite & Cachexia, Nausea, Cognitive & Neurological Disorders, Gut Dysfunction

A call for new study concepts will open in November 2019. Online registration will open soon via Eventbrite. Contact PaCCSC@uts.edu.au for more information

2020 Australian Pain Society 40th Annual Scientific Meeting | 5-8 April 2020 | Hobart TAS

This is the only multidisciplinary conference in Australia offering insights into the complex nature of pain management from a variety of medical, nursing and allied health perspectives.

The Australian Pain Society continues to align their conference theme with the IASP Global Year; in 2020 this is, 'The IASP Global Year for the Prevention of Pain'. The program will be full of inspiring national and international speakers who will provide a veritable glance at the most complex, challenging, provocative and indeed interesting topic: Pain.

Further information is at www.dconferences.com.au/aps2020/

External expressions of Interest (EOI)

EOI to join Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Ethics Committee

Expressions of Interest are currently being sought for two RACP members (One Trainee or Fellow member and one Trainee member) to join the RACP Ethics Committee.

The purpose of the Ethics Committee is to provide the Board with advice in areas that raise ethical considerations in the context of policy and advocacy, education, clinical practice and the health of our communities, research and financial investment. The Committee meets four times a year - twice face to face in Sydney and twice by teleconference. Face to face meetings are usually all-day meetings. The Committee also undertakes some work out-of-session by email.

For more information please click [here](#). To apply, submit an EOI form and your CV (no longer than 2 pages) to ethics@racp.edu.au by **COB Friday 4 October 2019**.

EOI to join Independent Hospital Pricing Authority Classifications Clinical Advisory Group

The RACP Adult Medical Division has forwarded a request for expressions of interest to appoint a member on The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA), Classifications Clinical Advisory Group (CCAG).

The purpose of the CCAG is to provide expert clinical advice with respect to development and refinement of the Australian Refined diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRG) Classification System which includes the Australian modification of the World Health Organization's Tenth revision of the International statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, the Australian classification of Health Interventions, and Australian Coding Standards (ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS) and AR-DRG. The CCAG is chaired by Dr Amanda Ling and includes clinicians from various specialities. Further details can be viewed [here](#).

Applications must be submitted by close of business Wednesday 9 October to RACPConsult@racp.edu.au.

Careers

New positions have recently been advertised on the ANZSPM website – visit the ANZSPM [Careers](#) pages for details!

You are receiving this email as a member of ANZSPM.

Are you following us on Twitter [@ANZSPM](#) and [LinkedIn](#)? For more news and updates, follow ANZSPM and visit www.anzspm.org.au.

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Our standard office hours: Mon-Thurs 9.15am-2.45pm AEST

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