

## ANZSPM eNews – 5 December 2019

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### Government News

#### **WA: Voluntary assisted dying bill update**

The Upper House agreed to 50 amendments to the Bill overnight, which still need to be approved by the Lower House. It is expected the Bill could be approved by the Upper House as early as today. The uncorrected transcript for last night's debate (Wednesday 4 December) can be found on the WA Parliament website [here](#).

#### **AUS Government response to Interim report of Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality & Safety**

On 25 November, the Australian Prime Minister announced additional funding of \$537 million as part of the Government's response to the three priority areas highlighted in the Interim Report of the Royal Commission. The key elements from this response are:

- Just under half a billion dollars will fund an additional 10,000 home care packages with 5,500 available in the first year.
- Just over \$25 million to improve medication management programs to reduce the use of medication as a chemical restraint on aged care residents.
- \$10 million for additional dementia training and support for aged care workers and providers, including to reduce the use of chemical restraint.
- \$5 million to help meet new targets to remove younger people with disabilities from residential aged care.

The Prime Minister said there will be further announcements as part of the Budget. For more information [click here](#).

#### **Mortality following hospitalisation for seven clinical conditions, July 2015 – June 2018**

The Bureau of Health Information (BHI) has released a report presenting mortality rates for seven clinical conditions in NSW in the 30 days following admission to hospital, with detailed results available for 73 public hospitals. The report aims to provide information that is useful for health professionals in understanding patterns of mortality across the seven conditions in their hospitals and informing local efforts to improve care. You can find the report [here](#).

#### **Department of Health consultation: National Framework for Action on Dementia 2015–2019**

The National Framework for Action on Dementia 2015-2019 (the Framework) guides the development and implementation of actions, plans and policies to reduce the risk of dementia and improve outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.

In order to explore the effectiveness of the Framework, the Department is seeking input via public consultation to ensure the best outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.

This consultation will:

- evaluate the existing Framework
- provide an opportunity to inform and scope options for national strategies to address dementia in the future.

Participation in the consultation process is by completing an online survey.

The consultation closes **Tuesday 31 December 2019**. Find more information on the Framework on the department's website.

### **NZ: Referendum website published**

The NZ Government has published a new website: [www.referendum.govt.nz](http://www.referendum.govt.nz) providing information for voters ahead of the referendum at the 2020 General Election. At the Election voters in NZ will be given the opportunity to vote on two referendums:

- Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill (draft legislation has been released for public consideration, in relation to legalisation of cannabis for recreational use); and
- End of Life Choice Act 2019 (which received Royal Assent on 16 November 2019).

The website sets out the proposed questions to be asked at the referendum. The proposed questions ask voters whether they support the introduction of the proposed Acts, which means public education around the specific content of those Acts will be very important.

### **AIHW reports on the interfaces between the aged care and health systems in Australia**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has reported for the first time on the use of health services by older people using different types of aged care. This report revealed how people accessing either an aged care program, or no aged care at all, interact with the health system and what their needs are. New key findings include:

- Differences in frequency of seeing a GP or specialist depending on the use of aged care.
- Types of services needed by people accessing different categories of aged care.
- Differences in prescribed medication based on type of aged care accessed.

You can read the full AIHW report [here](#).

### **2018-19 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997**

The 2018-19 Report on the Operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997* is now available from the GEN Aged Care Data website. The report details the operation of Australia's aged care system during the 2018–19 financial year and provides a snapshot of the system as a whole. It is delivered to Parliament each year by the Minister in accordance with section 63-2 of the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

Email [agedcarereporting@health.gov.au](mailto:agedcarereporting@health.gov.au) with any enquiries.

### **Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to address access to palliative care**

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety announced that its next hearing will take place in Canberra from 9 - 13 December 2019. The hearing's focus will be on the interfaces between the aged care and the health care system and will examine whether older people are able to access health-based services as they need. Access to palliative care will be specifically addressed during this hearing, notably accessing state and territory funded care for people living in residential aged care. Read more information on the Royal Commission Canberra hearing [here](#).

## **Other News**

### **New Chair and Deputy Chair on Palliative Care Australia Board**

After its Annual General Meeting and Board meeting on 28 November, PCA welcomed Prof Meera Agar as the newly elected Chair of the PCA Board and Helen Walker, a specialist palliative care nurse as the newly elected Deputy Chair. Congratulations to Meera from all of ANZSPM! For more information, please [click here](#).

**Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care & Parliamentary Friends of Dementia Groups' joint luncheon**  
Palliative Care Australia (PCA) and Dementia Australia partnered with the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care and the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia and held a joint luncheon on 28 November

in Parliament House Canberra to bring attention to the palliative care needs of people living with dementia. A suite of resources specifically designed to ensure they meet the needs of people living with dementia were launched at the event. For more information, [click here](#).

At the event, Dementia Australia launched a new discussion paper, *Dying Well – Improving palliative and end of care for people with dementia*. This paper highlights that improving palliative care for people with dementia, no matter where they live, must be a policy priority, Australia-wide, across all states and territories

### **BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care December 2019 issue**

Browse the December 2019 issue of the BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care. You can find features, editorials and reviews here: <https://spcare.bmj.com/content/9/4>

### **New RACP Pomegranate Health podcast released: Ep53: Marrabinya—a hand outstretched**

This month the RACP released the following new Pomegranate Health podcast: Ep53: Marrabinya—a hand outstretched

### **Medscape UK: The Deafblind Medical Student Following Her Dream (30 October 2019)**

Read about Alexandra Adams, a fourth-year medical student in the UK who's deafblind and wants to become a palliative medicine specialist.

## **ANZSPM Updates**

### **ANZSPM Webinar 6 recording: Managing Severe Chronic Breathlessness and New Models of Care**

A recording of ANZSPM webinar 6 presented by Dr Natasha Smallwood is now available. The recording can be found behind the RACP member login here [ANZSPM](#) and (link unsearchable) on YouTube here <https://youtu.be/werAEf1EB10>

### **Calling members with an interest in palliative care for older people, including interest in dementia**

ANZSPM members with an interest in palliative care for older people are welcome to join our Older Persons SIG. The SIG's objectives include identifying dominant challenges in providing palliative care for older people as well as advocating around palliative care needs for older people. Elissa Campbell is the current SIG Chair.

In light of the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care interim report, the issue continues to be very topical in Australia. Please email [info@anzspm.org.au](mailto:info@anzspm.org.au) if you are interested in joining this SIG.

## **Upcoming ANZSPM Events**

### **ANZSPM Aotearoa Palliative MDT Retreat – 3-5 April 2020**

The ANZSPM Aotearoa Committee is hosting a multidisciplinary team retreat over three days on the theme "Exploring resilience within palliative and end of life care" in April 2020.

*Where:* Silverstream Retreat, 3 Reynolds Bach Drive, Lower Hutt Wellington, NZ

*Who:* Suitable for all professionals working in palliative care.

*What:* The aim of the retreat is to allow you to return to your place of work affirmed, invigorated, motivated and refreshed.

More information, including program and pricing, will be shared in due course with members via email and on the website [events page](#). To enquire about the retreat please email [nzadmin@anzspm.org.au](mailto:nzadmin@anzspm.org.au)

### **SAVE THE DATE: ANZSPM Conference 2020, 17-20 September 2020 | Auckland, NZ**

The ANZSPM Conference 2020 will be held at the Pullman, Auckland from 17 to 20 September 2020. More details coming soon: [www.anzspm.org.au/anzspm20](http://www.anzspm.org.au/anzspm20).

## Other Upcoming Events

Other upcoming events that may be of interest to members:

### **Empathy Symposium, 7 December 2019 | UTS Sydney, Australia**

The UTS Empathy Symposium on Friday 7 December 2019 will explore the need to embed empathy in Australian healthcare education and practice. The symposium will showcase the [Virtual Empathy Museum](#) (VEM), which is a new digital resource funded by an Australian Technology Network of Universities grant. See [here](#) for more details or to register to attend.

### **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 an opportunity to learn more about the latest developments in MND research and advances in the clinical management of MND. Speakers are international experts in their field and key members of the New Zealand research community. Click here ([link=https://events.mnd.org.nz/research-conference/](https://events.mnd.org.nz/research-conference/)) to register or find out more. Please contact [claire.reilly@mnd.org.nz](mailto: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

Online registration is open here. Contact [PaCCSC@uts.edu.au](mailto:PaCCSC@uts.edu.au) for more information

### **Advanced European bioethics course “Suffering, Death & Palliative Care”, 24-27 March 2020 | Netherlands**

The course is organised by the section of Healthcare Ethics, IQ Healthcare, Radboud University Medical Centre and the aim is to educate participants on a range of ethical issues related to suffering and dying, palliative care and medically assisted death. The key-note lecture will be held by Els van Wijngaarden PhD, associate professor and researcher, Dept. of Care Ethics, University for Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, the Netherlands. More information [here](#). Direct registration: [registration](#). Contact: Valesca Hulsman: [Valesca.Hulsman@radboudumc.nl](mailto:Valesca.Hulsman@radboudumc.nl).

### **2020 Australian Pain Society 40<sup>th</sup> 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. Further information is at [www.dconferences.com.au/aps2020/](http://www.dconferences.com.au/aps2020/)

## Careers

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

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

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