

ANZSPM Member eNews – 23 March 2020

In this edition:

- ANZSPM's work regarding coronavirus COVID-19
- Resources on **palliative care during COVID-19 pandemic**
- **COVID-19 and ANZSPM event planning**
- Government News
- **CANCELLED & POSTPONED: ANZPM NZ Palliative MDT Retreat & Trainee Day**
- **ANZSPM20 Conference, 17-20 September 2020 | Auckland, NZ**
- Other events
- Careers – latest jobs link

Coronavirus COVID-19

An **Australian COVID-19 Palliative Care Working Group (ACPCWG)** has been formed to support the palliative care response to COVID-19. The ACPCWG is a partnership between Palliative Care Australia (PCA), the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM), Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA), the Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine (AChPM) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC) program. PCA has released a statement in regard to formation of the group and coronavirus COVID-19. The statement can be viewed [here](#).



ANZSPM published list of resources on providing palliative care during COVID-19 pandemic

ANZSPM has collated national and international resources to support members and other health care professionals in providing palliative care in the challenging environment presented by COVID19. This list is being updated regularly. To access, please [click here](#).

We also advise members of two recently published MJA articles with important updates:

- Integrating palliative care into COVID-19 planning – Will Cairns and Meera Agar
- Managing haematology and oncology patients during the COVID-19 pandemic: interim consensus guidance (endorsed by ANZSPM and Palliative Care Australia together with other key bodies)

Planning around ANZSPM events

The ANZSPM office is continuing to monitor updates from the Australian and New Zealand governments and considering how our events may be impacted.

A decision was made in consultation with ANZSPM's Aotearoa Committee to cancel the MDT Retreat that was scheduled for 3-5 April as mentioned later in this eNews. We are also working closely with our conference event managers in regard to planning for the ANZSPM Conference due to be held later this

year (as mentioned later in this eNews). At this stage, the conference planning is progressing and at the same time we are exploring options for a virtual conference should we need to change our approach in response to the evolving situation. A decision on this will be made at a later stage and all members provided with updated information. We also expect to open registrations for the conference a little later than usual while we continue to monitor updates.

In regard to our Trainee Days for 2020, we are currently exploring options for virtual meetings and/or online training so that Trainee Members will have access to suitable training opportunities during the year despite the impact on our usual face-to-face approaches. We will provide further updates on this directly to Trainee Members and in our closed Trainee Facebook Group (Trainee Members can arrange to join this group by emailing info@anzspm.org.au).

Finally, please be advised that the ANZSPM office is transitioning to working from home at present, in light of the latest advice from the Australian and ACT governments around social distancing. We will continue to provide our regular administrative support, potentially with some more flexible hours in the interim period and the office phone will divert to our info@anzspm.org.au email address so please leave a message and we will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible. We appreciate members' understanding over this period.

Government News

AUS: Coronavirus (COVID-19): National Health Plan resources

The Australian Department of Health has published a collection of resources for the general public, health professionals and industry outlining a range of funding measures the Australian Government is taking to combat coronavirus (COVID-19). For more information [click here](#).

NZ: Health advice and latest updates on COVID-19

The Ministry of Health in New Zealand provides regular updates, information and health advice on COVID-19 on its website [here](#).

NZ: Hospice NZ website on COVID-19

Hospice NZ has been working closely in collaboration with Hospital Palliative Care NZ, ANZSPM, Palliative Care Nurses New Zealand developing a web page of resources for anyone to access and share with colleagues. To access the webpage, please [click here](#).

AUS: Letter from the Australian Chief Medical Officer to Aged Care Providers regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On 13 March 2020, the Australian CMO has written a letter to Aged Care Providers regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Providers are encouraged to consider and share the letter with your services. Further information about Coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the department's website.

On 18 March 2020, the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, and Minister for Youth and Sport, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck released information on the restrictions to apply to visitors in residential aged care facilities to combat the spread of COVID-19. For more information please [click here](#).

AUS: The new 13 March 2020 MBS items can now be claimed

The Australian Government released details of the newly established Coronavirus COVID-19 MBS telehealth items for GPs and other specialists treating vulnerable patients or those in isolation. These items can be used from 13 March 2020 onwards. For more information please [click here](#).

AUS: TGA on limits on dispensing and sales of prescription and over-the-counter medicines

In order to ensure equitable access to medicines for all Australians, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, in consultation with the Department of Health, are requiring community pharmacists to enforce new limits on dispensing and sales of prescription and over-the-counter medicines. This measure is also supported by the National Pharmaceutical Services Association, representing pharmaceutical wholesalers. [More information here.](#)

AUS: Palliative Care Prognostic Tools Survey

The Department of Health's National Palliative Care Strategy 2018 prioritises the need for early planning and referral to palliative care for people affected by life-limiting illnesses. The key to implementation, is identifying when someone would benefit from palliative care and knowing how to assist them. To do this, many health professionals use prognostic (predictive) tools to identify when someone is at risk of dying within 12 months. To assist healthcare workers to provide the services needed by people approaching the end of life, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the 'Commission') has engaged HealthConsult to develop and administer a national survey to determine:

- the tools used by healthcare workers to identify patients nearing the end of life
- the extent to which these tools are used within different settings
- the facilitators and barriers for using the tools.

To complete the survey please [click here](#). The survey closes at 5pm on **Friday 17 April 2020**.

NZ: PHARMAC Notification: decision to list rehabilitation products

This link will take you to the notification of the decision to list rehabilitation equipment, patient positioning products and supports ("Rehabilitation Products") supplied by:

- Active Healthcare (NZ) Limited
- Allied Medical Limited
- Amtech Medical Limited; and
- Permobil New Zealand Limited.

The Rehabilitation Products will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 April 2020 and will be available on PHARMAC's website from that date. If you need any further information please visit the PHARMAC website.

Other News and updates

ANZICS guidelines on COVID-19

The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) has released new guidelines on COVID-19. To access the guidelines please [click here](#).

RACP releases Pomegranate podcast: Ep56: Billing in Byzantium

Australia has one of the best value health systems in the world, but also some of the most complicated health regulation. Between the federal Medicare scheme, the state hospitals, the private health insurers and the patient, it's not always clear how a provider should invoice their services. To explain some of the fundamentals, former nurse and lawyer, Margaret Faux of Synapse Global Medical Administration was invited to speak. To listen to episode 56, please [click here](#). You can also subscribe to [Pomegranate Health](#) in Apple iTunes, Spotify or any Android podcasting app.

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

The Queensland Parliament's Legislative Assembly's Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying [is](#) currently drafting its final report. The report is due to be tabled on 31st March 2020. To access the inquiry's webpage, please [click here](#).

Upcoming ANZSPM Events



CANCELLED: ANZSPM Aotearoa Palliative MDT Retreat & Trainee Day – 3-5 April 2020

In light of the current global COVID-19 pandemic and the Australian & NZ travel restrictions as well as the need for a responsible approach to events involving critical health workforce, a decision was made to cancel the ANZSPM NZ Palliative Retreat on 3-5 April 2020 in Lower Hutt, Wellington. We have been in contact with all delegates about this.

ANZSPM is exploring if there might be an opportunity to host the MDT retreat at a later stage. We will keep members informed. If you have any queries, please email info@anzspm.org.au.



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. Our theme for 2020 is *Palliative Care in an Uncertain World*. Please visit the website for updates: www.anzspm.org.au/anzspm20. Please refer to earlier comments in this eNews regarding our planning for the conference around the evolving situation with COVID-19.

RACP supervisor training workshop (SPDP3) at ANZSPM20, 17 September 2020 | Auckland NZ

The session will be 3 hours and will cover the following:

- Discuss the purpose and importance of work-based learning and assessment
- Analyse the cycle of planning for learning and assessment
- Identify the challenges and solutions associated with work-based assessment in a complex environment
- Evaluate overall performance and progress to make a summative assessment.

Date and Location: Thursday 17 September 2020 9.00am-12.00pm, The Pullman Hotel, Corner of Princes St & Waterloo Quadrant, Auckland

Facilitated by Dr Raewyn Gavin & Dr Dorothy Dinesh; to register please email SPDP@racp.org.nz

For more information on the workshop, go to the ANZSPM20 Conference website [here](#).

Other Upcoming Events

Please note: In light of the evolving situation around the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have attempted to identify changes to the events previously promoted in our eNews, however ANZSPM does not take any responsibility for the accuracy of the information listed below. ANZSPM strongly advises to

check with the event organiser directly if their event or conference is going ahead, is cancelled or being postponed.

CANCELLED due to COVID19: AAHPM: State of the Science in Hospice and Palliative Care research symposium | 20-22 March 2020 | San Diego, CA (USA)

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

No information available! Advanced European bioethics course “Suffering, Death & Palliative Care”, 24-27 March 2020 | Netherlands

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

CANCELLED due to COVID19: 2020 Australian Pain Society 40th Annual Scientific Meeting | 5-8 April 2020 | Hobart TAS

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

POSTPONED: The International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) 2020 Advanced Course | 22–24 April 2020 | Canberra, Australia

For more information please visit: <https://www.eventbank.com/event/siog-2020-advanced-course-canberra-14744/>

POSTPONED: Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine (AChPM) Spirituality Training Workshop | 23-24 April 2020 | Sydney, Australia

The RACP has decided to postpone this event to a later date. Please email AChPM@racp.edu.au if you have any questions regarding refunding of registration costs. For more information, visit the event website.

RESCHEDULED Due to COVID19 TO 29-30 Oct 20 in Munich, Germany: EUROPALL2020: European Conference on Controversies in Palliative Care | 23-24 April 2020 | Vienna, Austria

This conference will address a large number of controversial issues faced by multidisciplinary professionals across Europe in their everyday clinical practice. The aim is having frank, open and even provocative debates with a world-renowned panel of experts from various disciplines to ultimately form a consensus on how best to manage different complex questions in palliative care. Further information is at <https://europall2020.com>

No information available! NZ Choosing wisely pre-sessions and forum: *Choosing Wisely – Choosing Equity: a focus on equity, sustainability and shared decision-making* | 1 May 2020 | Wellington, NZ
Choosing Wisely supports reducing unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures in health care. This forum is an important opportunity to learn about *Choosing Wisely* and sustainability, equity and shared decision making; and to share your experiences and knowledge. There is strong consumer input into the forum, and high-quality, innovative speakers who are leaders in their fields. For more information please click [here](#).

POSTPONED to late NOV 2020: Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference | 3-4 May 2020 | Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne VIC

This biennial conference brings together Australian and New Zealand nurses with an interest in delivering high quality, contemporary palliative care. The two-day conference is the perfect forum for nurses and other health professionals to seek new knowledge, become familiar with new products and

services to the industry, and to identify opportunities to translate the best evidence into clinical and academic excellence. Networking, debating and socialising with peers adds a further dimension to the experience. With several plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and workshops, the structure of the conference provides the ideal environment for these activities to occur. More information at <https://www.pcna2020.org/>

No information available! Better Together - Connecting Palliative and Aged Care | 21 May 2020 | SA
The Palliative Care South Australia biennial conference will be held on 21 May 2020 with a focus on aged care. Please email pallcare@pallcare.asn.au or call on (03) 8271 643 if you have any questions.

CANCELLED/POSTPONED as Sydney ICC is closed: NPS: National Medicines Symposium (NMS) | 21 May 2020 | Sydney, NSW

For any enquiries please email nms@expertevents.com.au

National Palliative Care Week, 24 – 30 May 2020

National Palliative Care Week is an annual event organised by Palliative Care Australia and supported by the Department of Health to raise awareness and understanding about palliative care in the Australian community. In 2020, National Palliative Care Week will be held from **Sunday 24 May – Saturday 30 May**. Stay tuned for more details about our National Palliative Care Week theme and branding.

FACE2FACE event CANCELLED, MAYBE a virtual conference: 7th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium | 25-26 May 2020 | Alice Springs NT

The National Rural Health Alliance has released the full program of its 7th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium, which will be held in Alice Springs on 25-26 May 2020. The Symposium is an opportunity to hear from researchers and thought leaders in the rural health space, and to get together with academics, policymakers, health professionals and those from the not-for-profit sector, to learn and share knowledge. For details visit the website here.

No information available!: The International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) 2020 Advanced Course | 24 – 27 June 2020 | Treviso, Italy

For any information please visit: <https://www.eventbank.com/event/siog-2020-advanced-course-in-geriatric-oncology-17483/>

12th International Conference on Grief & Bereavement in Contemporary Society | 13-17 July 2020, Melbourne Australia

Over the past week, COVID-19 has become a global issue of concern and the health and safety of delegates, presenters and staff remains of paramount importance in the deliberations of the conference organising committee. In light of the above, and in assessing this decision, all stakeholders of the 2020 ICGBCS will be advised of the final decision on the conference by **Thursday April 9th, 2020**. For more information and registrations please visit www.icgb2020.com

The International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) 2020 Annual Conference | 1-3 October 2020 | Geneva, Switzerland

For more information please visit: <https://siog.org/content/siog-2020-annual-conference-0>

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 [@ANZSPM](#)

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine | ABN 54 931 717 498

E: info@anzspm.org.au | T: +61 2 6189 2244 | www.anzspm.org.au

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

IMPORTANT: The information in this email and any attachments may be confidential and/or subject to copyright. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not read, use, copy, disclose or disseminate this email, any attachments or information contained in this email and must delete it. Unless stated or apparent from its terms, any opinions expressed in this email or its attachments are solely those of the author and do not represent those of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine. The responsibility for virus detection is the recipient's and we do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage arising in any way from the use of this email or any attachments.

ANZSPM

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine Inc (ABN 54 931 717 498)

Email: info@anzspm.org.au

Office: +61 2 6189 2244

www.anzspm.org.au