

## ANZSPM Member eNews – 17 July 2020

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ANZSPM is delighted to announce that registrations for our virtual ANZSPM20 conference (17-19 September 2020) are now OPEN!! Please visit the updated ANZSPM20 conference website to view the program, register and submit an abstract!

### COVID-19 updates

#### Australian COVID-19 Palliative Care Working Group (ACPCWG)

ANZSPM continues to work with the ACPCWG on supporting the palliative care response to COVID-19 in partnership with Palliative Care Australia (PCA), 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.

ACPCWG-related updates and resources are below:

- Latest ACPCWG newsletter (7 July 2020)
- Previous ACPCWG newsletter (24 June 2020)
- An online hub of resources can be found on the CareSearch website.

#### ANZSPM COVID-19 Special Interest Group (COVID-19 SIG) guidance documents

ANZSPM guidance documents developed by the COVID-19 SIG relating to palliative care in the COVID-19 context are available here. Further updates coming soon!

#### NZ Taskforce on COVID-19

COVID-19 related resources for NZ health care professionals can be found hosted on the Hospice NZ website here.

#### **AUS: Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for the health and aged care sector**

The Australian Department of Health regularly provides up-to-date and authoritative information and advice on COVID-19 for the health and aged care sector 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.

### **Government News**

#### **AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety releases new consultation paper on 'Financing Aged Care'**

The consultation paper prepared by the Royal Commission, examines how aged care is funded in Australia and overseas, and considers a range of options that have the potential to transform the way aged care is funded and delivered in Australia. Submissions on the issues raised in the paper will be accepted until COB on **Tuesday, 4 August 2020**. The consultation paper is available here.

#### **AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety obtains extension to its reporting period**

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has obtained an extension to its reporting period. The Commission's final report is now expected **to be delivered by 26 February 2021**. The Commission had requested this extension due to impacts from COVID-19. Recent hearings had to be postponed or cancelled to avoid transmission of the virus to vulnerable population groups. For more information, click here.

#### **AUS: Additional funding for home care packages**

The Australian Government has announced new funding to create 6,105 home care packages for older Australians. The \$325.7 million investment will bring the total number of additional home care packages to over 50,000 since the last budget. More information, see the media release!

#### **AUS: AIHW releases following new reports**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released core monitoring information on the prevalence, incidence, hospitalisation and deaths of the following three chronic conditions: diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease.

The AIHW also released its National Drug Strategy household survey 2019 (14 July) and Indigenous primary health care: results from the OSR and nKPI collections report (30 June 2020).

### **ANZSPM updates**

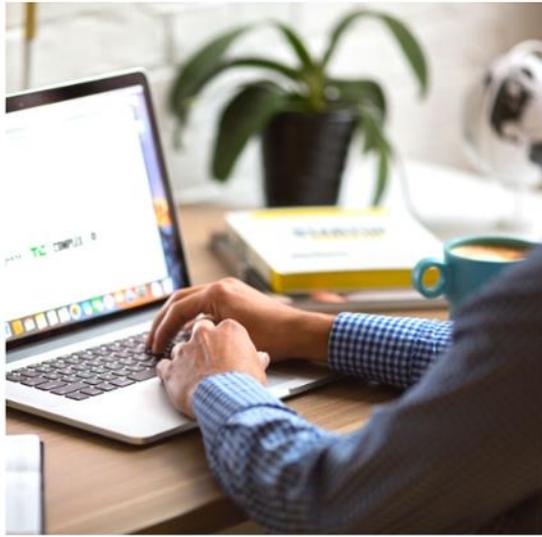
#### **Important update: Changes to ANZSPM membership renewal 2020-21 process**

Due to COVID-19 and issues with changing over to a new bank account ANZSPM had to modify our renewals process for 2020-21. Previously members would go online to renew but unfortunately our payment gateway is not working efficiently with members reporting issues with making payments this way. Therefore, over the next few weeks ANZSPM will be emailing members an invoice for their ANZSPM 20-21 membership. Note this will be based on members' current level of membership. Further information about eligibility and the different categories of membership can be found here. If you have any membership enquiries, please contact us at [info@anzspm.org.au](mailto:info@anzspm.org.au)

#### **ANZSPM20 virtual conference from 17 - 20 September 2020**

Registrations for our virtual ANZSPM20 conference (17-19 September 2020) are now OPEN!! Please visit the updated ANZSPM20 conference website to view the program, register and submit an abstract!

## ANZSPM webinar series in 2020



### ANZSPM Webinars

via @TheRACP

ANZSPM members are invited to join us for a series of webinars over the next 6 months on:

- Advanced Care Planning & incorporating VAD: the adult & paediatric perspective
- Palliative care in pandemics
- Update on opioids for breathlessness
- Haematology and Palliative Care

**Our Members will be emailed registration details or can contact [info@anzspm.org.au](mailto:info@anzspm.org.au) to find out more.**

**Not a member? Join now at [anzspm.org.au](http://anzspm.org.au)!**

## ANZSPM

The webinars are supported by the Royal Australasian College of Physician's 2020 webspilot program.

With the support of the RACP, ANZSPM is again able to bring to our members a series of webinars over the next 6 months. Please save the dates for the following ANZSPM webinars with registration details being sent closer to the date:

ANZSPM webinar topic	Speaker	Speaker presentation date & time
Advance Care Planning and incorporating VAD: the adult & paediatric perspective	A/Prof Jenny Hynson & Dr Barbara Hayes	22-Jul-20; 6pm AEST
Palliative care in pandemics	Dr Rachel Coghlan & A/Prof Will Cairns	24-Aug-20; 6pm AEST
Update on opioids for breathlessness	Prof David Currow	28-Oct-20; 6pm AEDT
Haematology and Palliative Care	Dr Rob Weinkove & Dr Zoe McQuilten	24-Nov-20; 6pm AEDT

### Other updates

#### NSW Lions Club of Kogarah NSW – Annual Healing Narrative Award 2020

Invitations are open for contributions to the Annual Healing Narrative Award, sponsored by the Lions Club of Kogarah. The award (\$750) is made annually to current health professionals employed in the healthcare system within New South Wales. The task is to write a reflective essay of no more than 2,500 words about a patient (or patients) which highlights the therapeutic benefit of presence and listening to a patient's story or narrative. Essays will be assessed by a panel of clinicians and non-clinicians, chaired by Dr Frank Brennan. The essay is to be submitted by **Saturday 5 September 2020**. As a condition of entry, each winner will be expected to have his/her essay read at an appropriate November meeting of the Lions Club of Kogarah in 2020 together with the presentation of the Award. To assist this process please do not attach the author's name to the entry itself. Dr Brennan will keep a list of all entries with the name of the respective entrant separately. Authors should be also mindful of the need to fully de-identify any patient characteristics. To submit an essay, or for further information, please email Dr Frank Brennan ([fpbrennan@ozemail.com.au](mailto:fpbrennan@ozemail.com.au)) who will de-identify the essayist prior to sending the essays for consideration.

**Palliative Care Australia releases *Investing to Save – The economics of increased investment in palliative care in Australia***

The report was commissioned with the assistance of The Snow Foundation by Palliative Care Australia and prepared by KPMG. The report calls for an overhaul of the palliative care system in Australia, including an additional annual investment of just over \$350 million, which will result in a saving of over \$450 million across the broader health care system every year. To access the report, [click here](#).

### **New RACP Pomegranate Health podcasts: [Ep60](#) and [Ep61: Delirium](#)**

**Detection and Causes:** This first podcast talks about the presentations and detection of delirium. It also goes through some of the medical risk factors, including dementia, infection and metabolic disorders like hypercalcaemia. Even more common than these precipitants, are a host of drugs that can alter cognition or increase agitation by their anti-cholinergic properties. The guest speaker Adam Kwok describes his experience as the carer of a patient going through the trauma of three bouts of delirium, and the challenges of care. Please [click here](#) to access the podcast.

**Prevention and Management:** This second podcast discusses a host of environmental triggers that are highly modifiable. Anything that contributes to a person's disorientation and discomfort can increase the likelihood of a delirium episode. While a lot of these factors are compounded in elderly and frail patients, it's important not to be fatalistic. Delirium can be reversed in a majority of patients by non-pharmacological means, though there are no medications indicated for treatment anywhere in the world. Antipsychotics should only be considered in patients experiencing severe distress intractable by other means as they are associated with many adverse side effects. Please [click here](#) to access the podcast.

### **RACP Online Congress Series launched**

Professor John Wilson AM, RACP President launched the RACP Online Congress Series. A first of its kind for the College and its members, as the series is delivered entirely online. Now more than ever, physicians are needed to lead, protect and serve communities and governments. Given the role physicians must play in the current healthcare crisis post COVID-19, this year the RACP Online Congress Series is free to all members.

### **ARTICLE: R Ting, P Edmonds & K E Sleeman: Palliative care for patients with severe covid-19**

*BMJ 2020; 370 | Published 14 July 2020*

Patients suffering from severe COVID-19 may experience distressing symptoms, such as breathlessness and agitation. Some patients' condition may deteriorate rapidly, meaning that conversations around end-of-life and goals of care could not happen in time. To address these issues, the BMJ has published an article from authors Ruth Ting, Polly Edmonds and Katherine E Sleeman, consultants in palliative care, and professor of palliative care Irene J Higginson, on palliative care for patients with severe COVID-19. Full article: <https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m2710>

### **ARTICLE: What is a good death? A critical discourse policy analysis**

*BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* | Online – 6 July 2020 – This article examines what English end-of-life care (EoLC) policy defines as a good death. Policy explicitly defines a good death as having the following attributes: being treated as an individual, with dignity and respect; being without pain and other symptoms; being in familiar surroundings and being in the company of close family and/or friends. Critical discourse analysis of 54 documents found that rather than just being an outcome or event, descriptions of what makes a death good also include many processes. A more extended definition includes: the person receives holistic EoLC; the dying person is treated with dignity and respect; the death is not sudden and unexpected; people are prepared and have ideally done some advance care planning; people are aware that someone is dying and openly discuss this; on knowing the dying person's preferences, all involved are to work towards achieving these; the place of death is important; the person's family are involved and the needs of the bereaved are considered. This analysis indicates the complex nature of the current discourses around good death in EoLC policy, which often focuses on

care rather than death. Policy should focus on outlining what quality EoLC looks like, rather than assume “good death” is a suitable outcome statement. Abstract: <https://bit.ly/2BF2tNo>

## Upcoming Events

**Please note:** In light of the evolving situation around the current COVID-19 pandemic, many events previously promoted in our eNews may have been postponed, cancelled or moved to a virtual format. ANZSPM recommends members check this directly with event organisers!

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

Please note this conference has been cancelled but a remote meeting will be held instead. Please visit website at <https://siog.org/content/siog-2020-annual-conference-0>

### **23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Palliative Care | 13-16 October | Montreal, Canada**

For more information visit at <http://palliativecare.ca>

### **EUROPALL2020: European Conference on Controversies in Palliative Care | 29-30 Oct 2020 | Munich, Germany**

More information is at <https://europall2020.com>

### **PAIN2020 conference | 14-15 November 2020 | Hyatt Regency Sydney**

More information at: <https://dcconferences.com.au/pain2020/>

### **Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference | 22-23 Nov 2020 | Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne VIC**

More information at <https://www.pcna2020.org/>

## 2021

### **Australian Pain Society 41st Annual Scientific Meeting | 18-21 April 2021 | National Convention Centre, Canberra**

More information at [dcconferences.com.au/aps2021/](https://dcconferences.com.au/aps2021/)

### **7th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium | 24-25 May 2021 | Alice Springs, NT**

<https://www.ruralhealth.org.au/7rrhss/>

## Careers

For the latest positions advertised on the ANZSPM website – visit the ANZSPM Careers pages for details!

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

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