

ANZSPM Member eNews – 16 October 2020

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Australian Federal Budget 2020-21

On 8 October 2020, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt handed down \$115.5 billion for health, aged care and sport through the 2020–21 Budget, with the portfolio seeing an additional \$32 billion in funding over the next four years. Palliative Care Australia has kindly collated a list of the key palliative medicine, aged care and grief and bereavement initiatives announcements:

- **Greater Choice for at Home Palliative Care program: \$3.6 million** will support access to end-of-life care for Australians, regardless of where they live, including in residential aged care facilities.
- **23,000 new home care places: \$1.6 billion** will help older Australians live at home for longer through providing an additional 23,000 home care places. Increase of 73,105 places since May 2018.
- **Implementation of AN-ACC funding model: \$91.6 million** will fund the second stage in the implementation of the new Australian National Aged Care Classification system (\$91.6 million). This "will enable independent assessments to deliver more accurate funding to meet the care needs of residents".
- **Aged care workforce reform: \$19 million** including \$10.8 million for nursing skills and competence and \$9 million for the Aged Care Quality Safety Commission.
- **Grief and Bereavement: \$12.5 million** to provide increased availability of grief and trauma support services to assist aged care residents and their families who have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak (more details below).

ANZSPM20 Conference Recordings

A reminder that the recordings of the conference presentations are now available for viewing on demand for the next 12 months. To view any of the talks please head to <https://anzspm.delegateconnect.co/>. Once you are on the platform you will need to log in with the details you used for the live event.

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.

Other ACPCWG-related updates and resources are below:

- Latest ACPCWG newsletter (6 October 2020)
- Previous ACPCWG newsletter (9 September 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. With further updates coming soon! ANZSPM members are encouraged to use and distribute these documents at their workplace. You can download the guidance documents here.

NEW: Palliative care flow chart published by National COVID19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

The National COVID19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce published its new MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE WITH COVID-19 WHO ARE RECEIVING PALLIATIVE CARE flowchart.

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: Minister announces details on the grief and trauma support for Australia's aged care sector

The Australian Government is investing \$12.4 million in a Grief and Trauma Response Package to ensure support is available for those affected by COVID-19 across the aged care sector. On 14 October 2020, Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Richard Colbeck, said services would be established as quickly as possible to ensure people were able to access the support they need. It will be delivered by Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement, Phoenix Australia – Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health and Dementia Support Australia. To read the full media release, [click here](#).

AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety releases 'Aged care and COVID-19: a special report'

On 1 October 2020 the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety released its special report on 'Aged care and COVID-19'. The report is the result of a hearing of the Royal Commission into the impact of COVID-19 on aged care, which was held in Sydney from 10 to 13 August 2020. It makes six recommendations, among them, a requirement that the Australian Government report to the Australian Parliament no later than 1 December 2020 on the progress of their implementation. To download and read the full report, [click here](#).

AUS: TGA provides new communication materials on access pathways for medicinal cannabis in Australia

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has developed a new set of communication materials to help consumers and health professionals understand access pathways for medicinal cannabis in Australia.

For consumers, the new materials include:

- a video overview of medicinal cannabis access
- a printable infographic overview of medicinal cannabis access.

For health professionals, the new materials include:

- a video overview of medicinal cannabis access pathways
- a video overview of accessing medicinal cannabis through the Special Access Scheme.

The these new materials join existing guidance documents and other resources on the TGA website, all of which are organised under a new medicinal cannabis landing page.

SA: Palliative Care Experience Survey 2020

The South Australian Government is looking for advice to help develop its State wide Palliative Care Services Plan 2021-26. COVID 19 has significantly impacted the way palliative care is provided and experienced. The SA Government wants to understand what is working well and how the delivery of palliative care in South

Australia can be improved. The State wide Palliative Care Clinical Network (PCCN) would like to hear your experiences as:

- a patient who has been receiving palliative care in 2020
- an unpaid carer who has provided palliative care in 2020
- a health professional or volunteer who has provided palliative care in 2020.

For more information and to complete the survey, please [click here](#). The survey closes COB 31 December 2020.

AIHW: BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2020 and Cancer screening and COVID-19 in Australia

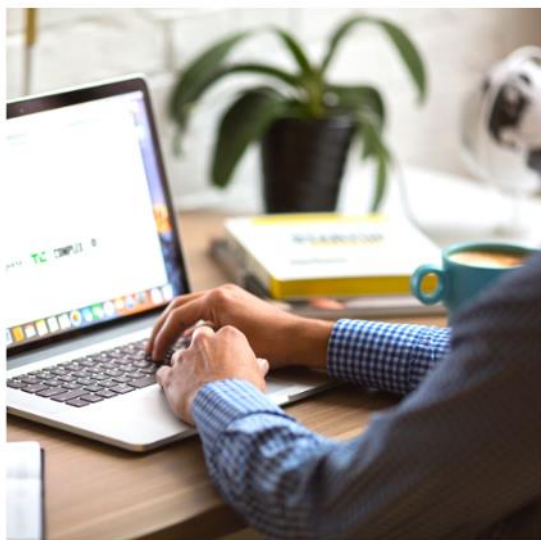
The number of cancer screening tests performed as part of national population screening programs declined during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The report, *Cancer screening and COVID-19 in Australia*, brings together data for the period of January to June 2020 on the 3 national cancer screening programs— BreastScreen Australia, the National Cervical Screening Program, and the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. To access the BreastScreen Australia monitoring report, [click here](#).

AIHW public consultation on the draft National Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Information Priorities

A newly released paper will help to guide efforts in palliative care and end-of-life care information development over the next 10 years. Providing a vision for the future of national palliative care and end-of-life care information, it will be the first of its kind in the palliative care and end-of-life care sector. The consultation draft of the National Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Information Priorities was developed by the Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Data Development Working Group (PC EOL WG), a subcommittee reporting to the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC)'s Health Services Principal Committee (HSPC). To download the consultation paper and to access the online survey, [click here](#). The consultation is closing **8 November 2020**.

ANZSPM updates

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 to find out more.

Not a member? Join now at 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
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

Recordings of 2020 ANZSPM webinars

Please note that the ANZSPM webinars are now also available in the Member area of our website under 'past events'

ANZSPM webinar topic	Speaker	Link to recording on RACP website (RACP member log in required)
Palliative Care in Pandemics	A/Prof Will Cairns/Dr Rachel Coghlan	https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine
Advance Care Planning & incorporating VAD: the adult & paediatric perspective	A/Prof Jenny Hynson & Dr Barbara Hayes	https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine
Public Health Palliative Care, including post COVID-19 PHPC directions	Dr Bruce Rumbold	https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine
Palliative care during the COVID-19 pandemic - experiences from a busy London hospital	Dr Sabrina Bajwah & Dr Rachel Wiseman	https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine

External research study requests

Reminder: COVID-19 Healthcare Workers Survey

A reminder that ANZSPM has received a request for voluntary participation in a research survey (approx. 15-20 mins) from Dr Nicola Atkin, Palliative Care Physician at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

This survey explores the psychosocial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare workers and is particularly keen to ensure the experiences of palliative care professionals are represented. Your input will help to propose solutions to support the healthcare workforce during this and future crises. The pandemic has changed social and work environments in many different ways, so you do not need to have worked directly with people with COVID-19 to participate. For more information, and to begin the survey, please click on either of these links: <https://covid-19-frontline.com.au> or <https://redcap.link/futureproofing>

If you encounter a security warning you may be able to click through it or copy and paste the link directly into your web browser. The survey will close on **Monday 19th October 2020**. If you have any questions please contact Dr Nicola Atkin at nicola.atkin@petermac.org or A/Prof Natasha Smallwood at natasha.smallwood@mh.org.au

Other updates

Free access for ANZSPM members to Clinical Oncology Journal palliative radiotherapy edition

The Journal publishers have offered ANZSPM members one month free access to the special issue of *Clinical Oncology* devoted to Palliative Radiotherapy which was carefully curated by the guest editors Agata Rembielak and Kristopher Dennis bringing together a range of perspectives from across the globe. This issue aims to serve as a valuable reference for daily clinical practice, to motivate readers to develop new interdisciplinary collaborations and to inspire them to design new clinical studies in palliative settings. Click [here](#) to read their editorial.

International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPCO special Announcement: Global Palliative Care Database

The use of electronic health records may improve health care quality, information sharing for evidence-based approaches and policies, and reduce the cost of care provision. The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is pleased to announce a joint collaboration project with the Fundación FEMEBA (Federación Médica de Buenos Aires, Argentina) to develop a Global Palliative Care Database (GPCD) from palliative care services from around the world. For more information on the project and how to create an account, please click [here](#).

New RACP Pomegranate Health episode: Ep63: the WHO's biggest test

During the COVID-19 crisis there has been some criticism of the World Health Organisation as to whether it declared a pandemic soon enough or covered up for China's failings. But few commentators have explained the role and responsibilities the WHO shares with its member states in dealing with a pandemic. A prototype of the International Health Regulations were conceived during the cholera epidemics of the mid 1800s, and but the most current version of the IHR was formalised in 2005 in response to SARS. Associate Professor Adam Kamradt-Scott has documented the political and social factors that have accompanied the implementation of the IHR. In this podcast we consider how the unprecedented scale of the current pandemic and the mixed response from member states has challenged the viability of the WHO. To listen to this episode, click [here](#).

Cancer Australia's National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap

ANZSPM has received an invitation from Cancer Australia to participate in the National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap through a dedicated Consultation Hub. The National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap will identify key priority areas for action over the next five years to improve outcomes for people with pancreatic cancer. It will consider all aspects of the cancer pathway, including prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, supportive and palliative care. The **Consultation Hub will be open until 30 November 2020** at <https://consultations.health.gov.au/cancer-care/national-pancreatic-cancer-roadmap/>.

Upcoming Talk: "Surges in brain connectivity in the dying brain: Implications and approaches to better understand end-of-life care using translational bench to bedside research"

ANZSPM member Dr Greg Barclay has advised of an upcoming ZOOM talk on **Friday 16 October 2020** by Dr Yama Akbari (MD, PhD) Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of California at Irvine, USA which may be of interest to members. For further information and Zoom link to this discussion please contact Michael Barbato at Michael.barbato6@gmail.com

AMA webinar: Launch of Every Doctor, Every Setting: a national framework on the mental health of doctors and medical students

Webinar:

Launch of Every Doctor, Every Setting: A National Framework on the mental health of doctors and medical students

Friday, 16 October 2020 / 1200 - 1300 AEDT

Limited places available. To register, visit:

www.ama.com.au/every-doctor-every-setting



To support coordinated action on the mental health of doctors and medical students, **Every Doctor: Every Setting: A National Framework** has been developed with the support of medical leaders in Australia.

Join webinar facilitator, Dr Hash Abdeen, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health, and our panel for the launch of the **Every Doctor, Every Setting: A National Framework**.

ARTICLE: McDougall RJ, Gillam L, Ko D, et al: Balancing health worker well-being and duty to care: an ethical approach to staff safety in COVID-19 and beyond

Journal of Medical Ethics | Online 25 September 2020 – Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the risks that can be involved in healthcare work. In this paper, we explore the issue of staff safety in clinical work using the example of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the COVID-19 crisis. We articulate some of the specific ethical challenges around PPE currently being faced by front-line clinicians, and develop an approach to staff safety that involves balancing duty to care and personal well-being. We describe each of these values, and present a decision-making framework that integrates the two. The aim of the framework is to guide the process of balancing these two values when staff safety is at stake, by facilitating ethical reflection and/or decision-making that is systematic, specific and transparent. It provides a structure for individual reflection, collaborative staff discussion, and decision-making by those responsible for teams, departments and other groups of healthcare staff. Overall the framework guides the decision maker to characterise the degree of risk to staff, articulate feasible options for staff protection in that specific setting and identify the option that ensures any decrease in patient care is proportionate to the increase in staff well-being. It applies specifically to issues of PPE in COVID-19, and also has potential to assist decision makers in other situations involving protection of healthcare staff. **Full text:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2020-106557>

ARTICLE: Information sharing challenges in end-of-life care: A qualitative study of patient, family and professional perspectives on the potential of an electronic palliative care co-ordination system

BMJ Open | Online – 5 October 2020 – There are only a limited number of qualitative studies exploring attitudes towards and use of an electronic palliative care co-ordination system (EPaCCS). The findings of this study support those of a recent systematic review that identified the burden of inputting data and information technology (IT) systems as the main challenge to implementation of EPaCCS.¹ A key finding of this study was that introduction of an EPaCCS alone does not provide a solution to some of the current difficulties regarding interdisciplinary management of end-of-life (EoL) patients in the community. An EPaCCS will only facilitate access to patient information, the utility of which is largely dependent on its quality; improving access to advance care planning (ACP) documentation is not going to improve care if the information recorded within them is of poor quality or insufficient detail or has not been completed. This demonstrates a need for investment in training for health and social care professionals in ACP discussions and documentation

to instill confidence and improve quality. This article highlights concerns regarding the infrastructure required to support an EPaCCS including: demand on already stretched professionals, technology provision required to enable access and continued support to ensure the system is updated. Ensuring appropriate infrastructure is in place has emerged as a challenge in the implementation of coordinated records for EoL patients in the U.K. and U.S. contexts. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3liSaj7>

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!

Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care: ADVANCED COURSE WEBCASTS | multiple dates for 2020

The Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care in the UK is bringing you education of high quality from great speakers. For more information visit <https://www.sobelleducation.org.uk/our-courses/>

Pain Management Research Institute Visiting Scholar: Prof. Andrew Rice, Imperial College, London: Update on Neuropathic Pain, its Diagnosis and Management | 22 October 2020 at 4pm Sydney time

Prof. Andrew Rice, an Internationally renowned research and clinician will talk live from London on the latest thinking on Neuropathic Pain and its Management. More information and how to join at <https://conference.meet.health.nsw.gov.au/webapp/> (Enter 4610542 and your name) Please do not be late and on entering the room remember to mute your video and microphone.

University of British Columbia Division of Palliative Care CME Day | 23 October 2020 | 0815-1500 PDT | Broadcast from Vancouver CANADA

This series of 40-minute virtual presentations aims to share key messages learned from new Palliative Care initiatives in a variety of settings. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Centre for Palliative Care Webinar: “The Power of Language: Perspectives from Palliative Care” | 27 October 2020 |

The Centres next webinar is “The Power of Language: Perspectives from Palliative Care”. The speakers are Prof Jennifer Philip, A/Prof Jennifer Weil, A/Prof Mark Boughey and Dr Anna Collins. They will present their reflections on language used in the care of those with advanced illness and in palliative care from their key perspectives and will offer thoughts on how we can improve communication. Register for this webinar [here](#)

EUROPALL2020: European Conference on Controversies in Palliative Care | 29-30 Oct 2020 | Munich, Germany More information is at <https://europall2020.com>

University of Melbourne Webinar: “Designing Death for the 21st Century and Beyond” | 5 November 2020|

Based on more than a decade of interdisciplinary research in the international death care sector, this webinar will challenge us to rethink our expectations about what a ‘good death’ is or could be. More information and Registration through **Eventbrite**

PAIN2020 Virtual Meeting | 14-15 November 2020|

More information available at www.dconferences.com.au/pain2020 or @PAIN2020SYD on Twitter.

2nd Death matters conference | 20 November 2020 | Christchurch, NZ

A Day of Exploration & Discovery. Topics include: Intuition & Spirituality in Modern Healthcare; Suicide Prevention - Everyone Has A Role; Hope After the Murder of a Child; Near-Death Experiences; Euthanasia - A

Deeper Look at Euthanasia; The Value of Planning Ahead and the Future of Death & Immortality. Attendance counts for Professional Development in related fields. More info and ticketing at www.deathmatters.nz

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

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

Ō tātou hiranga | What matters to us - shared decision-making and advance care planning virtual hui | 2-3 December 2020

The NZ Health Quality & Safety Commission is hosting a shared decision-making and advance care planning virtual hui for health care workers and managers. More information at <https://hqsc.eventsair.com/acp2020/>

2021

PaCCSC & CST Annual Research Forum 2021: Clinical Trials in a Changing World | 11-12 March 2021 | via ZOOM

This will be a joint forum brings together leaders in palliative care & cancer symptom management. For more information about the program and speakers, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

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

More information at 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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