

## ANZSPM Member eNews – 30 October 2020

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### Notice of ANZSPM 2020 Annual General Meeting

The Notice of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM) to be held Tuesday 24 November 2020 and Call for Nominations will be circulated via email to all members.

The 2020 AGM agenda, the minutes of the 2019 AGM meeting, the current constitution and an explanatory statement can also be viewed and downloaded from the ANZSPM website Members Notices section at <https://www.anzspm.org.au/c/anzspm?a=da&did=1006389>.

### 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 (21 October 2020)
- Previous ACPCWG newsletter (6 October 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**

### **NZ: Preliminary referendum results point to a 'Yes' vote on End of Life Care Act 2019**

On Friday 30 October 2020, the preliminary referendum results were announced. The preliminary result is 65.2 % in favour of the End of Life Choice Bill. Nearly 500,000 special votes still need to be counted, but the margin between the support and opposition is so wide that the referendum result is considered to be in the affirmative. New Zealanders will get access to assisted dying one year following the official announcement on November 6 of the referendum outcome. For more information, [click here](#) and [here](#).

### **AUS: Department of Health publishes Implementation Plan for National Palliative Care Strategy 2018**

On 20 October 2020, the Department of Health published the [Implementation Plan for the National Palliative Care Strategy 2018](#), a vital next step in progressing the development and delivery of palliative care across Australia. Its release comes at a critical time, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the work of the Aged Care Royal Commission highlighting the increasing need for palliative care.

### **AUS: Aged Care RC Counsel Assisting's final submissions: Palliative care recognised in recommendations**

For the final hearing, Senior Counsel Assisting, Peter Gray QC and Peter Rozen QC, presented submissions on behalf of the Counsel Assisting team over two days. Counsel submitted recommendations for the consideration of the Commissioners, and for any response by interested parties. The Council's final submission can be downloaded [here](#).

**Responses are now invited from interested persons to submissions made by Counsel Assisting** at the final hearing of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's which concluded a week ago. The Royal Commission will receive responses to the recommendations by Counsel Assisting and any other matters arising at the hearing, including remarks made by Commissioners, until **12 November 2020**. To make a response, please download the form on the information page [Counsel Assisting's final submissions on the Royal Commission website](#).

### **AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety releases two new research papers**

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has released the results of two surveys undertaken by the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI). The findings are presented in [Research Paper 13 – Inside the system: aged care residents' perspectives](#) and [Research Paper 14 – Inside the system: home and respite care clients' perspectives](#). For more information and to download the papers, [click here](#).

### **AUS: NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI): Clinician Connect - COVID-19 Special Edition**

In this Clinician Connect issue, ACI highlights the collaboration and clinical leadership that has driven its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to access the special edition.

### **AIHW: Cancer data in Australia web report (30 October 2020)**

In 2020, it is estimated there will be just under 150,000 new cases of cancer diagnosed and just under 50,000 deaths from cancer. This report presents cancer incidence, mortality, survival, risk and prevalence statistics using data from 1982 to 2016 (2018 for mortality) and projections up to 2020 for cancer incidence and mortality. To download the 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](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 6 months June to December 2020. Please save the dates for the final RACP ANZSPM webinar for 2020, with registration details being sent shortly:

ANZSPM webinar topic	Speaker	Speaker presentation date & time
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)
Update on opioids for breathlessness	Prof David Currow	To be advised!
Palliative Care in Pandemics	A/Prof Will Cairns/Dr	<a href="https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine">https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine</a>

	Rachel Coghlan	
Advance Care Planning & incorporating VAD: the adult & paediatric perspective	A/Prof Jenny Hynson & Dr Barbara Hayes	<a href="https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine">https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine</a>
Public Health Palliative Care, including post COVID-19 PHPC directions	Dr Bruce Rumbold	<a href="https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine">https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine</a>
Palliative care during the COVID-19 pandemic - experiences from a busy London hospital	Dr Sabrina Bajwah & Dr Rachel Wiseman	<a href="https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine">https://www.racp.edu.au/fellows/resources/specialty-society-webinar-series/specialty-societies/australian-and-new-zealand-society-of-palliative-medicine</a>

## Other updates

### Palliative Care Queensland launches a new carer resource

Palliative Care Queensland has launched a new resource titled: *“Palliative Caring; Information for families and carers who are caring for an older person with a life-limiting illness in Queensland”*. The resource is designed to be a simple guide to caring in Queensland, informing carers about the supports and resources available to them. From accessing health services and understanding legislation to support from community networks and their compassionate communities, the e-book takes a carer through the entire journey from diagnosis to bereavement and grief. The resource can be downloaded [here](#).

### NCIRS webinar: SARS-CoV-2 vaccine development: is a finish line in sight? 23 November 7-8.30pm AEDT.

The webinar features experts in the space including Professor Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity, Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford and Dr Melanie Saville, Director of Vaccine Research & Development, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Professor Kristine Macartney, Director, NCIRS will also join as a speaker. Speakers will also be joined by a discussion panel including Professor Paul Kelly (Acting Chief Medical Officer, Australian Government Department of Health), Dr Stephanie Williams, Australian Ambassador for Regional Health Security, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Associate Professor Christopher Blyth, Co-Chair, Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). For more information, [click here](#).

### Australasian Palliative Link International (APLI) launches new website

APLI has just launched a new website and is hopeful it will contribute to raising greater awareness within Australia and New Zealand of the need for palliative care development in the Asia Pacific region. APLI was established as an NGO in 1996 and set out to raise awareness within Australia and New Zealand of the need for palliative care development in the Asia Pacific region. For more information, [click here](#).

### ARTICLE: Gott M, Morgan T, Williams L. Gender and palliative care: A call to arms

Palliative Care & Social Practice | Online – 15 October 2020: There has been a systematic and largely unconscious neglect of gender in palliative care (PC) research, practice and policy. This is despite significant, although previously uncollated, evidence that gender influences almost all aspects of end-of-life (EoL) preferences, experiences and care. The social situations of women, transgender people and men often differ from one another while also intersecting in complex ways with sex differences rooted in biology. If PC is to meet its aspiration of providing universal benefit, it urgently needs to address a range of gender inequalities currently (re)produced at the level of the laboratory all the way through to government departments. The authors spotlight specific instances where gender inequalities have been documented, for example, regarding

EoL caregiving, EoL intervention and PC access and benefit. They highlight how gender inequalities intersect with other social determinants of health including ethnicity and economic status to exacerbate situations of marginality. The authors conclude by offering some practical steps that can be taken to support the discipline to adopt a more critical gender lens to support more equitable research, policy and practice. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/2SZG961>

**ARTICLE: Mistraletti G. et al. How to communicate with families living in complete isolation**

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care | Online – 15 October 2020: The communication typical of the globalised world, during an overwhelming pandemic, can give way to an experience of silent solitude: the loneliness of the patient and anguished isolation of family members and of healthcare professionals within their hospitals. A phone call, a video call, an email, a written story try to replace the physical contact that the isolation prohibits: communicating with the family allows people to create a listening space where worries, anguish of death and fears are collected for themselves and their loved ones far away, and in which they try to build trust and hope. It is crucial to establish contact with family members. A well-conducted phone call by the doctor on the clinical conditions, in a daily communication round, becomes a tool to care for those who cannot personally see their loved one, who suffer the anxiety of not having direct information and, often, ease the sense of guilt linked to “the feeling of abandoning his/her own loved one.” We inform, reassure, collect tears and together we build the hope for containing and eventually overcoming a psychological trauma that will leave its marks in future years. Otherwise we end up accompanying the pain of a death without closeness and with no direct participation, but at least not loneliness. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/2H81asX>

### 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/>

**University of Melbourne Webinar: “Designing Death for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.dconferences.com.au/pain2020) or @PAIN2020SYD on Twitter.

**Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) Clinical challenges in wound management workshop | 19 November 2020.**

The workshop will bring together clinicians, researchers and consumers to consider new study ideas that will generate evidence to enhance clinical management and decision making around malignant wound management. To register and find out how to present your wound management study idea go to <https://bit.ly/2IObUNB>

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.deathmatters.nz)

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

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

**Australian Healthcare Funding Summit | 25-26 November 2020 | Virtually Delivered Event**

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

**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/>

**Kidney Supportive Care Symposium | 12 March 2021 | Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Education Centre**

The 2021 Kidney Supportive Care Symposium will be an opportunity to hear from leading international and local speakers on the latest in Kidney Supportive Care. This Symposium is targeted at renal and palliative care clinicians across all disciplines, academics, and consumers. This symposium is a blended event and can be attended in person or on-line. Event Program and registration details TBA For further information please email [Laura.Austin@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Laura.Austin@health.qld.gov.au)

**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 [dconferences.com.au/aps2021/](https://dconferences.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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