

ANZSPM Member Alert – 25 October 2019

In this edition:

- Government News
- ANZSPM and Other Updates
- ANZSPM events – next ANZSPM webinar
- Other events
- Careers – latest jobs

Government News

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released its annual causes of death report

The report lists the top 20 leading causes of mortality for 2018 compared with 10 years ago (2009) and 5 years ago (2013). The leading cause of death was Ischaemic heart disease. The standardised death rate from Ischaemic heart disease has decreased by 22.4% since 2009, with declines in heart disease mortality observed now for more than 50 years. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, remained the second leading cause of death. Deaths due to dementia have increased by 68.6% since 2009. Cerebrovascular diseases, Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung and Chronic lower respiratory diseases round out the top five leading causes of death.

For more information and the full report please click [here](#).

New additions to the PBS

From 1 October a number of medications will be significant cheaper for cancer patients with price reductions for common scripts and new medicines added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The new or extending PBS listings include:

- Tecentriq® and Avastin - extended on the PBS to include first line treatment of patients with stage IV metastatic non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer.
- Besponsa® - extended on the PBS to include patients with relapsed or refractory Philadelphia chromosome positive B-ALL.
- Blincyto® - extended on the PBS to include patients with relapsed or refractory Philadelphia chromosome positive B-ALL.
- Aprepitant APOTEX® - made available through the PBS for the treatment of patients with Nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy.

Read more [here](#).

WA: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019

The second reading in the WA legislative council (upper house) started on 15 October 2019 and the proposed amendments to the bill can be found [here](#). The upper house is expected vote on the bill by the end of this year.

NZ: End of Life Choice Bill

During a conscience vote on 23 October 2019, NZ MPs voted 63-57 to put the matter of legalising assisted dying to a referendum. As the bill is not yet law, the referendum is not yet set. The bill must still pass a final vote scheduled for 13 November 2019 but that is considered likely after the most contentious amendments cleared the house. It now looks likely that New Zealanders will be going to the polls next year (in September or October) to not only vote on their next government but also on legalising cannabis and euthanasia. More information can be found on the [NZ parliament website](#).

ANZSPM Updates

ANZSPM webinar 4 on supporting palliative care practice by Dr Liese Groot-Alberts is **now available** online via [RACP's Youtube](#) channel and under the RACP member login here: **ANZSPM**

Other Updates

Close the Gap survey

The Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks), together with Australian governments, want to hear your views on what is needed to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Click [here](#) to start the survey and have your say about what is needed to make real change in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

RACGP updates Aged Care Clinical Guide (Silver Book)

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has updated Part A of its flagship aged care clinical resource, [Aged Care Clinical Guide](#) (known as the Silver Book) including the chapter on palliative care. The chapter covers many aspects of palliative care including advance care planning, symptom and pain management, medication management, care at home and after-death care. The fifth edition of the Silver Book will be significantly expanded from previous editions, both in scope and content, and will be released online in three interweaving parts:

- Part A: Common clinical conditions in aged care (October 2019)
- Part B: General approaches to aged care (early-to-mid 2020)
- Part C: Organisational approaches to aged care (mid-to-late 2020)

The guide is released online only to ensure regular updates can be undertaken and the information can remain up to date. View the revised chapter on palliative care [here](#).

End of Life Care: Challenges and Innovation (University of Glasgow)

A free online course on end of life care is now available from the University of Glasgow. *End of Life Care: Challenges and Innovation* will explore dying and palliative care practice around the world and evaluate new trends and ideas surrounding end of life care issues. Read more [here](#).

Update: *caring@home* project

One year on from the official launch of *caring@home*, health professionals and carers have reported how valuable the resources are in assisting home-based patients and their care team with end-of-life symptom control. More than 3,300 *caring@home* packages for carers have been distributed to specialist palliative care services, home care package providers, domiciliary nursing services, rural and remote health services and GP practices nationwide to assist patients and their carers. 3,757 downloads of the palliMEDS prescribing app have occurred since October 2018.

To order or download *caring@home* resources, please visit www.caringathomeproject.com.au or contact the project team at: caringathome@health.qld.gov.au or 1300 600 007.

Charter of Aged Care Rights – Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) educational activities

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) is supporting the Australian Government Department of Health in raising awareness and providing education about the Charter of Aged Care Rights. OPAN will be running new webinars, face-to-face events and a phone information service – 1800 237 981 – for aged care consumers and providers to support understanding of the Charter. This is in addition to the activities already undertaken by OPAN to support the Charter. More information about these activities is available on [OPAN's website](#) and more information about the Charter is also available on the [department's website](#).

Upcoming ANZSPM Events

ANZSPM Webinar 6: Managing severe chronic breathlessness & new models of care, 11 Nov 2019 | Online

The last webinar in our series is now open for registration, initially to ANZSPM members only – registrations will be opened (and the external link shared) to non-members closer to the event to enable members to have first priority.

Managing severe chronic breathlessness and new models of care - Dr Natasha Smallwood

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: 11 November, 2019 6:00 PM AEDT

Topic: ANZSPM - Managing severe chronic breathlessness and new models of care – Dr Natasha Smallwood

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://racp.zoom.us/webinar/register/195295d8668037218c34be5db4a05ad8>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

This webinar is part of the Specialty Society Webinar Service pilot that is being undertaken by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in partnership with its affiliated specialty societies.

Other Upcoming Events

Other upcoming events that may be of interest to members:

2019 Tasmanian Palliative Care Conference, 14-15 November 2019 | Hobart

This event will bring together the leaders in palliative care from across the State and nationally, for a two-day discussion on the future of the sector and how we can work together to ensure the best possible services for all Tasmanians with a life-limiting illness. Register [here](#).

Volunteer Navigation Partnerships: A compassionate community approach to early palliative care symposium, 15 November 2019 | Auckland, NZ

Hosted by Professor Rod MacLeod, and featuring a guest panel of experts including Mary Schumacher (CEO Hospice NZ), Dr Wendy Duggleby (Nav-CARE co-founder) and Dr John Scott (geriatrician), this is an opportunity for learning and open discussion for anyone involved in any area of palliative care - from trained professionals to valued volunteers. Through their extensive research, Nav-CARE co-founders Dr Wendy Duggleby and Dr Barbara Pesut found people living at home aged 65+ were often not receiving the support they needed, particularly when living in the transition between chronic illness and palliative care.

Learn about the research that ultimately led to the development of the Nav-CARE program (now implemented in fourteen hospice societies throughout Canada) and explore the possibility of translating this innovative approach to early palliative care into a New Zealand context.

Register online: www.surveymonkey.com/r/HarbourHospiceSymposiumRegistration

Enquires: education@harbourhospice.org.nz

World Congress on Itch, 17-19 November 2019 | Sydney NSW

This is the first time this Congress has been held in Australasia and is an excellent opportunity to gain a greater understanding of pruritus. Registration and details are at www.ifs2019.com.au/.

PCOC Outcomes & Benchmarking Conference: *Improving palliative outcomes for patients & families*, 20-21 November 2019 | Sydney, NSW

This international gathering will build upon and showcase key initiatives and developments in outcome measurement for patients and families affected by life-limiting illness and mark an exciting new direction for outcome measurement in palliative care in Australia and internationally. For more information and to register, please visit the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration conference website: <https://www.pcoconference.com.au/>

Renal Supportive Care Masterclass, 29 November 2019 | St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

The aim of the 1-day Masterclass is to provide clinicians with an educational event using the highest level of evidence drawn from the national and international literature combined with local experience in Renal Supportive Care. The target audience is Nephrology and Palliative Care Physicians, advanced trainees, nursing, management and allied health professionals with an interest in Renal Supportive Care. Registrations are open [here](#). There will be 10% off for trainees, students and Renal Society of Australasia members (enter 10PCOFF in the Promocode box). For further information please email centre.palliativecare@svha.org.au

Pain Management Research Institute Symposium: "Descending the Analgesic Ladder: The how, when and why of opioid de-prescribing", 29 November 2019 | Sydney NSW

Current guidelines recommend de-prescribing opioids for patients with chronic pain, however de-prescribing opioids in this population is challenging and a source of confusion for clinicians and patients alike. This symposium brings together local and international experts to address the complex challenges of de-prescribing opioid medications. To read more and register, please click [here](#).

Palliative Care in Queensland Annual Summit, 2 December 2019 | Brisbane, QLD

The Palliative Care in Queensland Annual Summit is an annual, must-attend sector check-up. This innovative event includes a two-hour State and National update, roundtables (resulting in sector position statements), presentations, posters and exhibitors. To read the program and to register, please click [here](#).

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 your opportunity to learn more about the latest developments in MND research and advances in the clinical management of MND. Speakers at the MND New Zealand Research conference are international experts in their field and key members of the New Zealand research community. Early bird pricing is available until 4 November with discounted pricing for students, people with MND and their carers. 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 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

A call for new study concepts will open in November 2019. Online registration will open soon via Eventbrite. Contact 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. For more information, please visit the website: Advanced European Bioethics Course 'Suffering, Death and Palliative Care' 2020.

Information: <https://bit.ly/2eqVZ4A>. Direct registration: [registration](#). Contact: Valesca Hulsman: Valesca.Hulsman@radboudumc.nl.

2020 Australian Pain Society 40th 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.dccconferences.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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