

ANZSPM Member eNews – 30 April 2020

In this edition:

- Updates on COVID-19
- Government News
- DoH advice to palliative care specialists regarding temporary COVID-19 telehealth items
- Other News
- ANZSPM Rural & Remote Special Interest Group looking for members
- Upcoming events
- Careers – latest jobs link

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 (28 April 2020)
- Previous [ACPCWG Newsletter](#) (21 April 2020)
- An online hub of resources can be found on the CareSearch website.

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

ANZSPM has published a series of guidance documents relating to palliative care in the COVID-19 context. The documents have been produced by the COVID-19 SIG to support healthcare professionals in their understanding of COVID-19 context palliative care. These documents are subject to change and will be reviewed regularly as the situation evolves. To access the documents please click [here](#).

NZ Taskforce on COVID-19



The NZ COVID-19 Taskforce continues to work on supporting clinicians during the COVID-19 situation. Resources for health care professionals can be found hosted on the Hospice NZ website [here](#). ANZSPM's Aotearoa Committee is providing regular updates shared with NZ members on the work of the collaboration.

Government News

AUS: Department of Health advice to palliative care specialists regarding temporary COVID-19 telehealth items

The Department of Health has advised that practitioners with their own suite of MBS consultation items, such as for palliative medicine, are eligible to access the temporary COVID-19 telehealth items - based on fee parity and RACP fellowship. This means both specialist and consultant physician practitioners who are recognised to practice in pain and palliative medicine, are able to bill consultant physician telehealth services (91824, 91825, 91826, 91834, 91835 and 91836). If there is any uncertainty, Services Australia are able to advise practitioners of their eligibility to claim the new telehealth items who can be contacted on 1800 810 586. As things continue to move quickly, information regarding the new telehealth items is regularly updated on the Department's MBS online

website and in fact sheets which can be found at www.mbsonline.gov.au. Members may consider subscribing to 'News for Health Professionals' on the Services Australia website to receive regular news highlights and updates.

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](#).

AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety calls for submissions on impact of COVID-19 on aged care services

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is calling for submissions from the general public and organisations relating to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the aged care sector. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all aspects of Australia's economy and society, including the delivery of aged care services. In order to understand that impact fully, the Commissioners are seeking the views of those people directly affected. The Commissioners would like to receive submissions from recipients of aged care services, families or supporters of recipients, aged care service providers, and those who work in aged care. The deadline for submissions to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is **30 June 2020**. For more information, please [click here](#).

AUS: National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce sourcing case studies

The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce brings together the peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19. The Taskforce is also in the process of establishing a dedicated palliative and aged care panel to support the guideline development process. Access the latest updates and clinical guidelines from the Taskforce [here](#).

The Taskforce is seeking to develop case studies of specialty groups or groups of specialists which have used its clinical guidelines on the care of people with COVID-19. If you have any experience/case study you can share, please contact Sarah Rumsey on behalf of the Taskforce directly at sarah@palin.com.au

Other updates

Essay by ANZSPM Member Frank Brennan: Contemporary loss. The process of personal sfumato in the Griffith Review 68: *Getting On* takes a timely look at the question of how we age successfully – as individuals, as a society, as a population. [Click here](#) to get to the current edition of the Griffith Review.

New RACP Pomegranate Health podcast episode: Ep57: The Art of Telehealth

The RACP has released its latest episode 57 on the art of telehealth. This podcast goes into some of the bureaucratic and tech support questions that clinicians have been asking during the current crisis. It also discusses the art of building trust with new patients and conducting a physical examination through telehealth. The guest speakers have been pioneering telehealth outreach to rural and remote Queensland for more than a decade. [Click here](#) to access the podcast.

ANZSPM Rural & Remote Special Interest Group

The Rural & Remote SIG is looking for more members interested in joining the group to network and share ideas on issues relevant to rural and remote practice. If you are working in or interested in rural and remote practice and would like to join this group, please email submission@anzspm.org.au with "Join Rural & Remote SIG" in the subject line.

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 strongly advises members to check this with the event organiser directly.

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. PCA has announced that they are looking at creative ways to interact with audiences during the week without holding physical events. PCA will provide updates via their eNews and website.

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>

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

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

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

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

Careers

For the latest positions 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