

ANZSPM Member eNews – 29 May 2020

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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 (19 May 2020)
- Previous ACPCWG newsletter (12 May 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

QLD: Voluntary euthanasia laws to be deferred until after October election

Legislation that would legalise voluntary euthanasia will not be passed by the Queensland Government this term, with the draft legislation to instead be referred to the law reform commission. For more information, please click here.

AUS: *caring@home* project extended to March 2021

caring@home have received additional funding from the Australian Government to extend the project to the end of March 2021. The project, originally scheduled to finish on 30 June 2020, now has an extra nine months to provide resources, education and support to health professionals around Australia. Additional funding has been provided for communication, support activities and the production &

distribution of the augmented *caring@home* packages for carers including the emergency COVID-19 packs. For more information visit: www.caringathomeproject.com.au or phone: 1300 600 007!

ANZSPM updates

ANZSPM20 conference is going virtual in September 2020

Due to the continued uncertainty about the COVID-19 situation we have made the difficult decision to move ANZSPM20 to a virtual platform. Our aptly chosen theme *Palliative Care in an Uncertain World* will be the focus of our carefully curated and fully online program. Our conference committee are now working on details for the virtual program.

The ANZSPM20 virtual event will be offered at an affordable rate for attendees. The full program will be available and registration will open by the end of July. Attendees will have the flexibility to participate in the live event as well as access on-demand recordings to watch post event. For more information please visit anzspm.org.au/anzspm20.

Save the date: upcoming ANZSPM webinar series supported by RACP

Please save the dates for the following ANZSPM webinars which we are once again bringing to you with the support of the RACP's webpilot program. More information including registration details to follow. If you have any questions, please email info@anzspm.org.au

ANZSPM webinar topic (tbc)	Speaker	Speaker presentation date & time
Public Health Palliative Care including a consideration of the post-COVID PHPC directions	Dr Bruce Rombold	24-Jun-20; 6pm AEST
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

ANZSPM membership renewal delayed for banking change

The ANZSPM membership renewal period for 2020-21 memberships has been delayed as ANZSPM is going through a change of banks. We will notify members by email when we open membership renewals for 2020-21 and thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions about your membership, please email info@anzspm.org.au!

Other updates

RACP Foundation Research Awards now open

Applications are now open for the RACP Foundation Research Awards, which provide research funding for 2021. The awards have a total value of \$2.5 million available for up to 50 awards and are available to RACP Fellows and trainees from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Awards are available in the following categories:

- Career Development Fellowships for established researchers
- Research Establishment Fellowships for those establishing their research careers

- Research Entry Scholarships providing stipend support for those at the beginning of their research careers.

Full details for these opportunities including eligibility and application closing dates are available on the RACP Foundation Research Awards webpage.

IAHPC: 20% reduction when you renew your membership by 31 May 2020

Last month International Association for Hospices and Palliative Care (IAHPC) announced to implement several initiatives to support the global palliative care community and its members during this time. One of these is a reduction of 20% membership until 31 May. If your membership is current, the renewal will extend your membership for the duration that matches your payment. If your membership has expired, please [renew through IAHPC website](#).

AUS: Palliative Care Social Work Australia (PCSWA) Australian Palliative and End of Life Care Social Work Standards

To mark its contribution to National Palliative Care Week, PCSWA launched the Australian Palliative and End of Life Social Work Standards. These standards guide Social Work practice in working with adults and children living with a life limiting illness, their carers and families. The Standards can be found [here](#).

ARTICLE: Equity and the financial costs of informal caregiving in palliative care: A critical debate

BMC Palliative Care | Online – 19 May 2020

The financial costs of informal caring for a person approaching the end of life (EoL) can be significant, and a small but expanding evidence base reflects the range and scope of these costs. The palliative care context was also found to increase costs, as meeting the ill person's needs was prioritised over cost. Over recent years a growing number of international studies have confirmed that the financial costs of caring are a serious issue across the developed world. Furthermore, evidence suggests that informal carers make a huge financial contribution to the wider healthcare system, with studies estimating that informal caregiving accounts for up to 70% of total health care costs. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/2LGFzqh>

ARTICLE: Thomas Jd et al, Development of a Palliative Care Toolkit for the COVID-19 Pandemic, Journal of Pain and Symptom Management (2020)

A workgroup of interdisciplinary palliative care clinicians developed the Palliative Care Toolkit, consisting of a detailed chapter in a COVID-19 online resource, a mobile and desktop web application, one-page guides, pocket cards, and communication skills training videos. The suite of resources provides expert and evidence-based guidance on symptom management including dyspnea, pain, and delirium, and also on serious illness communication, including conversations about goals of care, code status, and end-of-life. **Full text (Journal Pre-proof)** [https://www.jpsmjournal.com/article/S0885-3924\(20\)30425-5/pdf](https://www.jpsmjournal.com/article/S0885-3924(20)30425-5/pdf)

AUS: National Palliative Care Week 2020



National Palliative Care Week is underway until Saturday 30 May 2020.

If you missed Monday's Facebook event "A Virtual Morning Tea with Special Guests: The importance of "comfort, compassion and connection" in end-of-life care, you can watch it now here.

If you missed Tuesday's Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care webcast, hosted by Dr Norman Swan and with Prof Meera Agar and others, you can watch it again here.

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.

Webinar: 'Supporting Someone with Breathlessness' - Learning about Breathlessness 2 Study (LaB2) Dissemination Event (NZ/AUS)

Dr Morag Farquhar and Sylvia Barnes (from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK) are holding an online Zoom event on 24 June 2020 about a new web-resource, '*Supporting Someone with Breathlessness*', developed for carers of people with breathlessness. To join this event, please register for free at <https://tinyurl.com/y7lko2ou>

12th International Conference on Grief & Bereavement in Contemporary Society | 13-17 July 2020 | Melbourne, Australia

Cancelled due to Covid19, however keynote speakers will be showcased in an online platform. Check website for further information at www.icgb2020.com

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>

23rd 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>

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

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