

## ANZSPM Member eNews – 26 June 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 (24 June 2020)
- Previous ACPCWG newsletter (3 June 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.

#### **AUS: Latest medicines management resources for COVID-19**

To assist clinicians and health service organisations, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has developed evidence-based resources for COVID-19, including information relating to medicines. These resources include:

- A referenced summary of antiretroviral and other treatments being investigated for the [potential treatment of COVID-19](#)
- Position statements with information about [recommended and safe use of medicines in patients with COVID-19](#)
- A [list of links](#) to COVID-19 guidance from Australia and across the global community.

## Government News

### **NZ: High Court judge says hospices won't have to provide assisted dying if Kiwis vote for euthanasia (NZ Herald article)**

A High Court judge says hospices will not be forced to provide assisted dying services if New Zealanders vote to legalise voluntary euthanasia at this year's general election. The decision by Justice Jillian Mallon also says aspects of the End of Life Choice Act are causing confusion among health providers and Kiwis generally. For more information click [here](#).

### **AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety hearings to resume**

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety will resume hearings in July after a break to protect hearing participants and staff during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The suspension has also allowed those working in the aged care sector to focus on managing the impact of the pandemic on their delivery of aged care services. The next hearing - scheduled to be held in Melbourne on July 15-17 - will focus on mental health, oral health and allied health care in aged care provision. For more information, please click [here](#).

### **AUS: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety releases new consultation paper on 'Financing Aged Care'**

The consultation paper prepared by the Royal Commission, examines how aged care is funded in Australia and overseas, and considers a range of options that have the potential to transform the way aged care is funded and delivered in Australia. Submissions on the issues raised in the paper will be accepted until COB on **Tuesday, 4 August 2020**. The consultation paper is available [here](#).

### **AIHW report: Palliative care services in Australia**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released the web report on palliative care services in Australia. Palliative care services in Australia has been published as a web only report since 2015.

### **WA: Inquiry into palliative care in WA**

The Joint Select Committee on Palliative Care in WA is holding an inquiry into palliative care and are seeking submissions by **Friday 10 July 2020**. The That the joint select committee is inquiring into and reporting on:

- the progress in relation to palliative care, in particular implementation of recommendations of the Joint Select Committee into End of Life Choices;
- the delivery of the services associated with palliative care funding announcements in 2019–2020;
- the delivery of palliative care into regional and remote areas; and
- the progress on ensuring greater equity of access to palliative care services between metropolitan and regional areas.

ANZSPM is considering making a submission to the inquiry. If you have any comments/feedback for ANZSPM's submission, please forward them to [submissions@anzspm.org.au](mailto:submissions@anzspm.org.au).

## ANZSPM updates

### **Important update: Changes to ANZSPM membership renewal 2020-21 process**

Due to COVID-19 and issues with changing over to a new bank account ANZSPM had to modify our renewals process for 2020-21. Previously members would go online to renew but unfortunately our payment gateway is not working efficiently with members reporting issues with making payments this way. Therefore, over the next few weeks ANZSPM will be emailing members an invoice for their ANZSPM 20-21 membership. Note this will be based on members' current level of membership. Further information about eligibility and the different categories of membership can be found [here](#). If you have any membership enquiries, please contact us at [info@anzspm.org.au](mailto:info@anzspm.org.au)

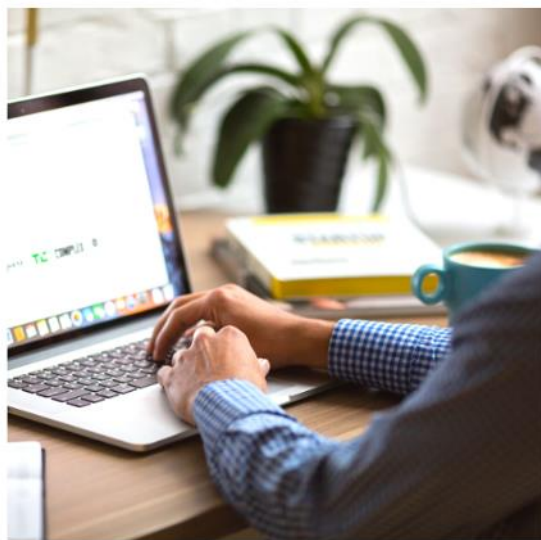
### Update on opioids and PBS for palliative care

ANZSPM continues to work together with Palliative Care Australia on addressing the unintended consequences of changes in PBS prescribing rules for opioid medications since they were introduced at the beginning of June 2020. A joint submission is being prepared in advance of the next meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee outlining the specific areas of concern and suggest solutions that will ensure all prescribers are able to access appropriate opioids (oral and parenteral) consistently for pain and breathlessness management for people living with life-limiting illnesses, without the burden of unnecessary regulatory barriers.

### ANZSPM20 virtual conference from 17 - 20 September 2020

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](http://anzspm.org.au/anzspm20).

### 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 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
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

## Other updates

### **RACP Pomegranate Health Podcast: Ep59: Essential Ethics in Paediatrics**

The RACP has published a new Pomegranate Health podcast episode on the ethical questions that come up in paediatrics which can appear overwhelming to begin with. When can a child be said to have cognitive capacity and bodily autonomy? For those who don't, where does the guardianship of the parent give way to that of the medical professionals? When might treating one child have implications for the resources available to others? And what about not treating or vaccinating a child, if that's what the parents want? For more information and to access the episode, please [click here](#).

### **RACP Online Congress Series launched**

Professor John Wilson AM, RACP President launched the RACP Online Congress Series. A first of its kind for the College and its members, as the series is delivered entirely online. Now more than ever, physicians are needed to lead, protect and serve communities and governments. Given the role physicians must play in the current healthcare crisis post COVID-19, this year the RACP Online Congress Series is free to all members.

### **RACP publishes results of RACP members' survey on new MBS telehealth items**

On 18 May 2020, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) distributed a voluntary survey to all its practising Australian based members on their use of the new MBS telehealth attendance items introduced for COVID-19. Members had until close of business 25 May 2020 to complete the survey. There were 950 responses to this survey and the average completion rate was 77%. To read the full report, [click here](#).

### **Caring@home looking for Punjabi speaking palliative medicine specialist**

The *caring@home* project is looking for palliative medicine specialists or trainees to review some resources for carers being translated into Punjabi. *caring@home* has produced resources for carers to support carers to help manage breakthrough symptoms safely using subcutaneous medicines. A company that uses accredited translators has been contracted to do the work but the project has also requested the opportunity to have a health care professional, who is a native speaker of the language, to review the translation and subtitles for medical correctness. The work would be expected to be completed by the end of July 2020.

A stipend will be offered for this work. If you are interested in undertaking this work, please contact Karen Cooper, Project Manager at *caring@home* by emailing [Karen.Cooper3@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Cooper3@health.qld.gov.au)

### **ARTICLE: Integration of palliative care into COVID-19 pandemic planning**

*BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* | Online – 9 June 2020 – The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to surpass the healthcare system's capacity to provide intensive care to all patients who deteriorate as a result of the disease. This poses a unique challenge to healthcare teams of rationing care during a pandemic when resources are scarce. Healthcare providers will need to acquire new skills in care decision making and effective symptom control for patients who do not receive life-saving measures. In this review, the authors describe some of the important palliative care (PC) considerations that need to be incorporated into COVID-19 pandemic planning. The main aspects to be considered include decision algorithms for rationing care, training on effective symptoms management, alternative delivery methods of PC services such as telemedicine and finally death and bereavement support for surviving family members who are likely to be isolated from their loved one at the moment of death. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/2YsIIRp>

### **ARTICLE: Cook K & Bergeron K: Palliative care for young adults with life-limiting conditions: public health recommendations** *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* | Online – 19 June 2020

This research demonstrates the unique perspectives and experiences of these young adults and offers recommendations to improve services to enhance their health and well-being. Further, these young

adults were integral in the development of recommendations for system changes to match their unique developmental needs.

**Full text:** <https://spcare.bmj.com/content/early/2020/06/18/bmjspcare-2019-002042>

## 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!

### **12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>

### **23<sup>rd</sup> 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/](http://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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