

# Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework

Communique no. 6 – May 2018

This communique is issued by the Implementation Advisory Group (the group) for *Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework* (the Framework) [www2.health.vic.gov.au/palliative-care](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/palliative-care) released in July 2016. It aims to keep stakeholders and interested groups informed of progress and developments of activities under the framework priorities. This communique follows the group's sixth quarterly meeting.

## End of life ancillary services grants

A \$10 million grant program for end of life ancillary support services was announced in November 2017 as part of additional funding of \$62 million over the next five years. These one-off grants will assist people, families and carers to manage the day to day activities associated with caring for someone with a terminal illness at home. Two rounds of grants resulted in the following organisations being successful:

- Anam Cara Colac
- Anam Cara Geelong
- Chinese Cancer and Chronic Illness Society of Victoria
- Community Houses Association of the Outer Eastern Suburbs Inc. (CHAOS)
- Fernlea House
- Link Community Transport
- Little Dreamers Australia
- Mallacoota District Health and Support Services
- Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
- Polish Community Council of Victoria
- Peace of Mind Foundation
- PRONIA (formerly Australian Greek Welfare Society)
- Russian Ethnic Representative Council
- Shannon's Bridge
- Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre
- Victorian Arabic Social Services
- Warrnambool and District Community Hospice

The grants will assist 'grassroots' community organisations to provide support to people with life-limiting illnesses. Many of the successful applicants highlight the importance of access for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Read the first media release at <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/supporting-families-of-terminally-ill-victorians/>. For more information visit [www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/end-of-life-care/palliative-care/end-of-life-ancillary-grant](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/end-of-life-care/palliative-care/end-of-life-ancillary-grant).

## 'Living as well as possible, right to the end of life' - Victorian Clinical Council

Assoc. Professor Jill Sewell AM, Chair of the Victorian Clinical Council (VCC), provided an overview of the VCC to the group. VCC was formed in March 2017 to provide independent clinical leadership and advice to the Government, the department and health services on how to make the system safer, provide better care and produce better health outcomes for all Victorians.

The group discussed VCC's December 2017 meeting '*Living as well as possible, right to the end of life*' that was attended by a wide range of clinicians and consumers, the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services and senior staff. The concept that 'end of life care is everyone's business' was the basis for discussion, aligning with priority four of the framework. A final report considered by the Secretary includes five recommendations:

1. Develop an end of life and palliative care capability framework.
2. Address critical workforce knowledge and skill gaps.
3. Embed a culture that strives for better end of life care.
4. Develop metrics that ultimately support people to live well until the end.
5. Implementation of council recommendations and the broader end of life and palliative care program.

The advice report can be viewed at:

[bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/reports-and-publications/advice-end-of-life-care-services](http://bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/reports-and-publications/advice-end-of-life-care-services)

## Funding model review

This review by the Department of Health and Human Services was announced in November 2017. It aimed to address any inequities that exist in the current palliative care funding model. The review has considered how to improve sustainability for palliative care services and improve their capacity to deliver flexible patient-centred care. The review has been completed and the final report has been submitted to the Minister for Health for consideration.

## Victorian Councils: Supporting Communities Around End of Life

The Municipality Association of Victoria (MAV) and La Trobe University conduct this project. The group were advised of resources to assist councils include video tutorials, strategies and material to build community strength and capacity to support people experiencing dying, death and bereavement. These are available from MAV at: [www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/positive-ageing/end-of-life-project](http://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/positive-ageing/end-of-life-project)



## Safeguarding the end of the rainbow

### A guide to help LGBTI people to plan an end of life of their choice

This new resource promoted to the group was created in partnership by COTA Victoria and Transgender Victoria. It includes tips for LGBTI people on finding safe professionals; how to ensure that their relationships, partner and family of choice are respected; and end of life is exactly as they would like.

Download the resource at [cotavic.org.au/info/looking-for-information/lgbtiq-resources/](http://cotavic.org.au/info/looking-for-information/lgbtiq-resources/)



	<p><a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative">Better Health Channel</a> <a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative">www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative</a> features <b>'Palliative care for the LGBTI community'</b> under the tab <i>'End of life and palliative care for all communities'</i></p>	
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## Implementation Advisory Group

The group provides an advisory, advocacy and leadership role to the department and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of activities to meet the framework's aims. The group was established in late 2016.

Membership includes representatives of public, private and regional health services, metropolitan, regional and non-government palliative care services, Council of the Ageing, Leading Age Services Australia, Advanced Care Planning Australia, Victorian Disability Advisory Council, Municipality Association of Victoria, Carers Victoria, Palliative Care Victoria, Ethnic Communities Council Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria, Health Issues Centre, consumer representatives and Primary Health Networks representative.

## More information

[www2.health.vic.gov.au/palliative-care](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/palliative-care) - for health, human service, social and community sectors.

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative) - for consumers.

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To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 03 9096-0509 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [John.Carson@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:John.Carson@dhhs.vic.gov.au). Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne. © State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services May 2018. Where the term 'Aboriginal' is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous is retained when it is part of the title of a report, program or quotation.