

# Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework

Communique no. 4 – November 2017

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.

The group has progressively considered each of the framework's priorities at its meetings. This communique follows the group's 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, with a focus on priority 1 and on education and training.

## Framework priority 1: Person-centred services

An overview of this priority outlined work completed to date including centralising and updating of information on Better Health Channel [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative) and linking of resources and translations in several languages. Further development is ongoing based on recent analysis of website usage.

### Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016

A component of priority 1 is implementation of *Advance Care Planning: have the conversation* and the introduction of the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016* (the Act). An overview was provided on preparations for commencement of the Act on 12 March 2018. This includes the *Guide to the Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016*, available by visiting [www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/end-of-life-care/advance-care-planning](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/end-of-life-care/advance-care-planning) (and click on the link for the Act).

Education forums on the introduction of the Act are occurring during December 2017 and rural and regional roadshows are planned for early 2018 across Victoria. An opening event and exhibition '*What Will Become of Me*' is planned for 8 March 2018. For more information contact [acp@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:acp@dhhs.vic.gov.au).



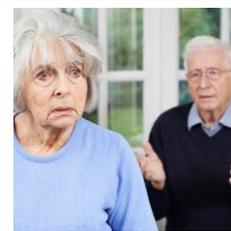
[Better Health Channel www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative)

features pages:

**'Palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people'**

**'Palliative care for older Victorians'**

under the tab '*End of life and palliative care for all communities*'



## Commonwealth investment in palliative care

The Commonwealth government has announced a commitment in excess of \$60 million over three years for projects to improve quality and access to palliative care. Recipients include Palliative Care Australia, Caresearch, PCOC, Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative (PEPA and PCC4U), HammondCare Health, End of life Essentials, QuoCCA, Advanced Care Planning Australia, Primary Health Networks (PHN's) and more. For more information visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and search 'national palliative care projects'.

## Education and training

The Department of Health and Human Services is progressing an audit of national and Victorian education initiatives. The group noted that a vast range of web-based training is available. Further analysis and available evaluation will assist in identifying strategies for workforce development and education. The importance of experiential learning such as the PEPA program [www.pepaeducation.com](http://www.pepaeducation.com) was noted.

A workforce taskforce is being established by the Department of Health and Human Services on education recommendations that have arisen through the *Parliamentary Inquiry into end of life choices Final Report* [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lsic/inquiry/402](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lsic/inquiry/402). This advisory group will provide feedback to the workforce taskforce on relevant educational issues.

## 3rd National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Conference

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans-gender and Intersex (LGBTI) inclusivity in Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework was presented at this conference and reported to the group. There was strong interest in the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016*. Making choices that are respected is an important issue for LGBTI people at the end of life. The differing needs of carers in the LGBTI community was also a strong theme.

The *Rainbow eQuality* resource produced by the Department of Health and Human Services was promoted as a useful resource guide to help health and community services deliver LGBTI inclusive practice.

	<p><a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au">Better Health Channel</a> &lt;<a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative">www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/palliative</a>&gt; features '<b>Palliative care for the LGBTI community</b>' under the tab 'End of life and palliative care for all communities'</p>
<p><a href="http://www2.health.vic.gov.au">Health.vic</a> &lt;<a href="http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/populations/lgbti-health/rainbow-equality">www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/populations/lgbti-health/rainbow-equality</a>&gt; features <b>Rainbow eQuality</b>, an LGBTI inclusive practice guide for health and community services.</p>	

## Terminology

In previous meetings the group considered the difficulties of inconsistent use of language and terminology – for sectors and consumers. An extensive analysis of terminology was conducted; the findings were considered by the group to inform a resource that would be practical and useful.

A draft resource outlining key terms was developed and discussed by the group. Following consensus for consistent use of terminology, this resource will be further developed for targeted audiences in relevant sectors. Key terms for end of life and palliative care, person-centred care, people and teams, and advance care planning will be represented.

## 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.

Implementation Advisory Group secretariat, *Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework*.

Telephone (03) 9096-0509, <[Theresa.Williamson@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Theresa.Williamson@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>, <[John.Carson@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:John.Carson@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>

Gerard Mansour,  
**Chair, Implementation Advisory Group,  
Commissioner for Senior Victorians.**

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 November 2017. 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.