

Victorian Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Collaborative Achievements September 2010 - September 2012

Key achievements of the Victorian Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Collaborative (VPCNPC) for period September 2010 – September 2012 include the following:

1. Development of a comprehensive communication strategy :

- The (VPCNPC) website, <http://centreforallcare.org/index.php/education/vpcnpc/> is regularly updated with information relevant to services, Nurse Practitioners (NP), Nurse Practitioner candidates (NPc) and nurses interested in finding out more about the role of an NP.
- Electronic Newsletter
- VPCNPC Forums conducted each three months (see below for additional details) – relevant details added to website
- Presentations at palliative care conferences
- Developing and maintaining a 'Zeemap' to provide location and contact details for all palliative care NP and NPc in Victoria <http://www.zeemaps.com/vpcnpc>

2. Education and information

Forums: The forums provide a valuable face to face networking opportunity for NP, NPc and service managers. Forums regularly involve presentations by the Department of Health, Nurse Policy Branch, Australian College of Nurse Practitioners and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. At each forum, a candidate presents a case study for shared learning, and to gain valuable presentation skills and experience. Every forum included a specific education presentation, and topics over the past two years have included;

- Conducting a neurological assessment
- The role of mentorship
- Workshop on preparing for endorsement
- Ethically challenging cases
- Preparing for publication and dissemination
- Conducting a mental health assessment
- Reflections on transition to NP
- The role of service managers in supporting NP and NPc
- Developing a scope of practice
- MBS and PBS prescribing and considerations

Each forum is evaluated by the attendees and the results used to enhance future forums. Feedback from all forums has been extremely favourable.

Joint Victorian Palliative Medicine Training Program (VPMTP) and VPCNPC education sessions

Education needs relevant to both professional groups have been delivered and very well received. Topics for the twilight sessions include:

- Literature searching skills
- Presentation skills
- Leadership skills

Ongoing education strategy

A comprehensive education strategy has been developed and will be implemented in coming months.

3. Resources developed by VPCNPC (and available via website)

- Development of the Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Candidate Clinical Competencies (2011).
- Development of Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Symptom Assessment Guide (2011).
- Collated a list of relevant websites and resources for the VPCNPC website

4. Management and Governance

- The VPCNPC management group, consisting of representatives from Centre for Palliative Care, service representative, NP Advisor and Department of Health. The management group meets on a regular basis and communicates via email as required to support VPCNPC activities.
- A risk management and sustainability statement developed and approved by management group

Future planning includes;

- A nurse education has been appointed to implement the education workplan
- Pod cast interviews from NP and NPc for website (currently underway)
- Consideration of requirements specific to endorsed Nurse Practitioners including;
 - Exploring opportunities to expand scope of practice as ongoing activity
 - Seeking opportunities to participate in organisational or other development committees
 - Research relevant activities

As at September 2012, there are 14 palliative care NPc and eight NP (five of whom have been endorsed since 2010).