

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Development of a statewide coordinated specialist and generalist palliative medicine training program

Purpose:

The aims of this project are to develop a coordinated specialist palliative medicine training program for non-specialist or generalist doctors, and to develop a framework for general and specialist medical involvement in inpatient, consultancy and community palliative care services.

Duration:

Duration of project: 2 years
Commencement date: 01/08/2007

Funding Body:

Victorian Government Department of Human Services

Project Team:

Dr Peter Hudson
Director, Centre for Palliative Care Education & Research
Ms Jackie Kearney
Manager, Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Services, Department of Human Services
Dr Helen Austin
Statewide Manager, Palliative Medicine Training Program
Ms Anna Macrae
Administrative Assistant, Palliative Medicine Training Program
Project Officer (to be appointed)

Steering Committee:

To be appointed by the Victoria Government Department of Human Services

Project Summary:

A preliminary analysis of medical workforce planning data from Victoria indicated that at present there are insufficient palliative medicine specialists practicing in Victoria to meet current service needs, future training of practitioners and expansion of services and accreditation requirements of the Royal College of Physicians. This project will address the lack of specialist palliative care physicians in the long term by focusing on the current inadequate recruitment of specialist trainees and providing a region wide focus on specialist training. A suitable model of palliative care medical support that addresses future workforce issues will be developed for medical palliative care practitioners located in health services, community health centres and stand alone non-government palliative care services.