

Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care

Activity Work Plan

2020 - 2022

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Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care (GCfAHPC)

Aim of Activity

The aim of this activity is to systematically improve palliative and end of life care for people who are approaching the end of life, and for their families and carers through:

- increased knowledge and skills about advanced care planning in residential aged care facilities,
- increased uptake of the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) tools and resources, and
- facilitating the sustainability of the current community advisory groups.

Description of Activity

Following consultation with key stakeholders about the extension to existing program funding to 30 October 2021, Primary Health Tasmania is planning to undertake the following activities:

Advanced Care Planning Training

Working through a collaboration with Palliative Care Tasmania (PCT), Primary Health Tasmania will employ a project officer to deliver advanced care planning training in residential aged care facilities. The established training programs devised by PCT 'Advanced Care Planning - The Basics: New Tasmanian Advanced Care Directive' and 'End of Life Choices - Planning and Decision Making Training' have been shown to be effective in increasing the awareness of advanced care planning and are an essential part of the delivery of care for residents.

In addition to delivering training in residential aged care facilities, the project officer would work with the PCT educational team to ensure that the training provided to the wider primary health care workforce is up to date and contemporary.

The project officer will also work with key stakeholders to ensure that the Tasmanian HealthPathways are up to date and evidence based including the details of the new Tasmanian Advanced Care Directive.

Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration in Residential Aged Care (PCOC RAC) Program

Primary Health Tasmania will employ a Palliative Care Engagement coordinator to facilitate the implementation of the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration Program in association with the Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI) within residential aged care facilities (RACFs). The intention is that the Palliative Care Engagement coordinator will support the implementation of the PCOC RAC program in residential aged care facilities across the state that meet the criteria to progress with the initiative. The PCOC RAC program provides a routine and standardised assessment and response protocol to be used by RACFs' clinicians, care-workers with each resident. This will enable PCOC tools to be used to assess needs, trigger discussions with residents and families for advance care planning and to anticipate problems before they arise. It will also enable staff to recognise when specialist support, medical or other review is indicated.

Additional activities

The overarching aims of the GCfAHPC measure are complementary to the core work carried out within Primary Health Tasmania. Therefore, the Palliative Care Engagement coordinator and the PCT project officer will work together to ensure that work is also completed to identify where Primary Health Tasmania may best add value within the palliative primary health care sector. This work will involve but not be limited to:

- reviewing the current work being undertaken within the field of palliative care,
- reviewing the educational opportunities for primary care clinicians in the key areas of palliative care, such as advanced care directives and goals of care,
- identifying opportunities for development of tools and resources to facilitate levels of primary healthcare provider knowledge,
- working with Tasmanian HealthPathways team and the CRM team to ensure that all details are up to date including ensuring appropriate referral pathways and best practice transfers of care are possible,
- developing a scoping document on Primary Health Tasmania's role in aged care and aged care sector/system outlining future opportunities, enablers and barriers, to inform Primary Health Tasmania's role in supporting palliative care beyond the life of this specific additional funding for palliative care activity.