

COMMUNIQUÉ 2

CEO ROUNDTABLE ON PALLIATIVE CARE

The CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care provides high level advice to State and Federal Government on palliative care issues in WA. The Roundtable is facilitated by Palliative Care WA with CEO's drawn from PCWA member organisations within the health and community service sectors.

Communiqué 2 from the CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care, reports on a meeting held with the Federal Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care and Indigenous Health, Hon Ken Wyatt MP, on 7 September 2018.

Current members of the CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care include:

- Dr Alison Parr (St. John of God Health Care)
- Dr Elissa Campbell (PCWA)
- Jennifer Lawrence (Brightwater)
- John Van Der Wielen (HBF)
- Mark Cockayne (Silver Chain)
- Pip Brennan (Health Consumers Council)
- Paul Coates (Carers WA)
- Rhonda Parker (Alzheimer's Association)
- Dr Scott Blackwell (Collaborative Primary Health Care)
- Tim Shackleton (Rural Health West)
- Yasmin Naglazas (Bethesda Health Care)

Guest presenters:

- Professor Kathy Eagar, University of Wollongong and Director of the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC)
- Clara Orton, Senior Social Worker, WA Health
- Zoe Mitchell, Senior Social Worker, WA Health

Other attendees included:

- Amanda Bolleter (WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network)
- Shannon Calvert (Vice-President, PCWA)
- Jason Burton (Alzheimer's WA)
- Stephanie Enkel (Minister Cook's office)
- Tanya Pigeon (PCOC facilitator)
- Robyn Richmond (Marketing and Communications, PCWA)
- Lana Glogowski (Executive Officer, PCWA)

Below is a summary of the main issues discussed.

1. PARLIAMENTARY REPORT ON END-OF-LIFE CHOICES

The CEO Roundtable keenly welcomed the report and particularly the sections focusing on Advance Care Planning and palliative care.

Key points articulated at the meeting included:

- ❖ Reinforcement of the recommendations providing increased education on Advance Care Planning for both community and health professionals; and the increased provision of palliative care options across WA particularly in rural WA
- ❖ Palliative care, by definition, doesn't shorten or extend life; the sector will be guided by the outcomes of the Parliamentary process regarding voluntary assisted dying
- ❖ Suggested that ACP was potentially a "game changer" allowing people to engage in planning early; achieve their desired outcomes and transition into palliative care
- ❖ However some concerns were also raised:
 - ACP and palliative care need to be equally resourced – pointless inviting people to plan if options are not available to them
 - ACP and palliative care need to be taken up and available to people of all ages, not just older Australians
 - Bereavement services have been omitted from the report and need to be considered

Action: *That a letter is sent to the WA Sustainable Health Review requesting their urgent consideration of the findings and recommendations from the My Life My Choice report.*

2. PALLIATIVE CARE ISSUES IN AGED CARE

Presentations were delivered to the CEO Roundtable by representatives of the Palliative Care Social Workers group and Silver Chain.

Key points articulated at the meeting included:

- ❖ People are experiencing poor outcomes at end-of-life with difficult transitions between home, aged care, hospital and hospice
- ❖ The current wait time of 12 months for Home Care Packages is unacceptable; community palliative care (Silver Chain) resources are limited; and the Commonwealth Home Support Program provides limited options
- ❖ The Commonwealth/State interface is a challenge and intensive work is required to ensure people receiving palliative care have adequate and timely access to services
- ❖ Other challenges discussed included:
 - Some people "future proofing" i.e. assessed at a higher level than current need resulting in packages being underspent
 - Co-funding requirement limits some people's capacity to take up packages
 - High level of service provider fees sometimes results in just 40% of the package funding being available for actual service delivery

3. PALLIATIVE CARE OUTCOMES COLLABORATION (PCOC)

The CEO Roundtable has previously raised concerns regarding the lack of reliable data on the delivery of palliative care services in WA. This was supported by the findings and recommendations in the *My Life My Choice* report.

Professor Kathy Eagar was invited to present data from the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration, which links service providers across Australia to drive continuous improvement.

Key points included:

- ❖ Only 40% of people who could benefit are currently receiving palliative care
- ❖ Currently much palliative care data focuses on *experiences* but also needs to include a focus of *outcomes*
- ❖ 50% of people die in hospital and that percentage hasn't changed over the past 10 years
- ❖ Palliative care provided by GPs was overstated and in decline
- ❖ As many as 50% of residents in residential aged care are transferred to hospital at end-of-life
- ❖ Specialist palliative care is very effective although symptoms are likely to be better controlled at the end of life in hospital than at home
- ❖ WA has under-invested in inpatient palliative care

4. ADVANCE CARE PLANNING CAMPAIGN in WA

The sector recognises the very low community awareness of Advance Care Planning with only 5-10 % of Western Australia's adult population having completed any components of an Advance Care Plan i.e. Advance Health Directive, Enduring Power of Guardianship and generic Advance Care Plan.

PCWA, with financial support from the CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care, is planning an awareness campaign to improve health literacy around end of life choices and Advance Care Planning. Key messages will encourage consumers to identify their priorities for end-of-life as early as possible; have conversations with their family about those wishes; and then seek their health provider's assistance to complete the documentation.

A Marketing and Communications specialist, Robyn Richmond, has been recruited to co-ordinate the delivery of the campaign which is expected to commence in 2019.

Financial contributions are acknowledged from:

- HBF
- Silver Chain
- Rural Health West
- St John of God Health Care
- Alzheimer's WA
- Bethesda
- Cancer Council WA
- Brightwater
- Carers WA

RAISING ISSUES WITH THE CEO ROUNDTABLE

The CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care is keen to represent the views of the health and community services sectors. Should you have an issue that you would like to raise, please contact PCWA's Executive Officer, Lana Glogowski on pcwainc@palliativecarewa.asn.au or 0419 047 315.