



PALLIATIVE CARE COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND

AT WORK

March 2010, Issue 2

Chair's Update



Dr Kate Grundy
Chair, Palliative Care
Council of New Zealand

What's New from the Council?

National Palliative Care Health Needs Assessment

For the first time an attempt will be made to identify the need for palliative care in New Zealand on a national basis, whether that need is being met, and to try to project what care and services will be needed in the future.

"We will be collaborating with the Ministry of Health, Hospice New Zealand, District Health Boards, service providers and consumer representatives to undertake this Needs Assessment," says Dr Kate Grundy, Council Chairperson.

"The Council's report *Positioning Palliative Care in New Zealand* identified that the lack of information on these matters was a shortcoming of our current palliative care policy. The Needs Assessment will be one step towards trying to change that."

The Council will be using an epidemiological approach to establish population need for palliative care. It hopes to complete the Needs Assessment by later this year.

The Council is getting a real sense that momentum is building on the issue of palliative care service provision and policy.

Work by our staff and by individual Council members who represent diverse interests from across the palliative care spectrum, added to the work being done by the Ministry of Health's Palliative Care team and Advisory Group, means that palliative care is getting a good focus. We are determined that this momentum will be maintained.

We've already identified a lack of information and understanding of the need for palliative care and have initiated a Needs Assessment to change that.

In addition to the news in this edition of *At Work*, we have also updated our terms of reference and are developing a programme of activity to raise awareness of palliative and end of life care.

Who we are ...

The Council's eight members represent different parts of palliative care service provision.

Council member details are available on our website:

<http://www.cancercontrolcouncil.govt.nz/memberspcc>

For Your Diary

19th Hospice NZ Palliative Care Conference

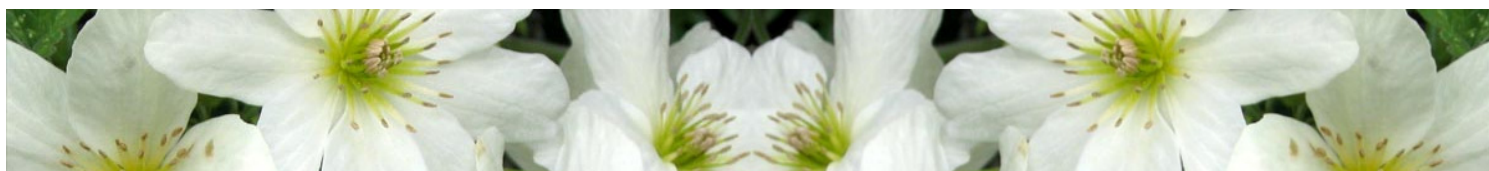


Date: Tuesday 9 November - Thursday 11 November 2010

Location: Wellington, New Zealand

Venue: Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa

Visit the Hospice New Zealand website
www.hospice.org.nz for more information.



Current Projects

Out and About – Fact Finding

The Council's support team has been out and about visiting Palliative Care services during what's been dubbed the 'fact finding' mission. With 22 service providers visited to date we thought an update was timely.

"This wasn't just a meet and greet exercise," says Wayne Naylor, the Council's Senior Analyst. "We spent time with both management and clinicians hearing about the services they provide and what things help or hinder their work. Common themes and issues emerged, some similar to the Ministry of Health's Gap Analysis work, as well as some additional ones that need to be taken into consideration."

The main themes/issues identified were: access, workforce, funding, information and data, education and training, relationships with DHBs, development of services, aged residential care services, research, raising awareness and new initiatives.

The most recent visits were with Palliative Care Nurse Specialists at Grey Base Hospital, Greymouth, and the Hospital Palliative Care Team at Waikato Hospital. Further visits are planned, but we will be building these themes into our ongoing work and communications programmes.

Positioning Palliative Care in New Zealand – report now online

The report *Positioning Palliative Care in New Zealand: A review of government health policy in relation to the provision of Palliative Care services in New Zealand* is now available online from <http://www.cancercontrolcouncil.govt.nz/pccnews>.

We warmly invite comment on this paper with any suggestions as to how this may lead to improvements in the future.

Meet the Council - Dr Carol McAllum



During the day you'll find Dr Carol McAllum working with clients from across the Hawke's Bay in her role as Palliative Medicine Specialist. Along with her current role, Carol also brings her 16 years of experience in General Practice in rural communities to the Council table, as well as her expertise in palliative care, which has been a specific focus since 1996.

When she isn't busy working at Hawke's Bay Hospital and Cranford Hospice, you may find her delivering lectures in palliative care with the University of Auckland in her role as honorary senior lecturer.

Carol was nominated for Council by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine.

Dates

March 2010

18 > Palliative Care Council meeting

May 2010

20 > Palliative Care Council meeting

Contact the Palliative Care Council of New Zealand / www.cancercontrolcouncil.govt.nz/aboutuspcc
e-mail / office@cancercontrolcouncil.govt.nz

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