

Inquiry into Palliative Care

Submission to the House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development by

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The Rural Clinical School (RCS) demonstrates experience and capacity in the provision of palliative care education programs at an undergraduate and post-graduate level, and participates in research relating to palliative care education and evidence based practice in palliative care.

The RCS provides palliative care education (communication skills, symptom management, and goals of care education) to undergraduates at the Rural Clinical School. Tutorials for 5th Year medical students occur throughout the year, and while on a two week placement with the Community Specialist Palliative Care Service.

The final Year Medical Students have experience while on placement at Mt St Vincent Nursing Home Teaching in Residential Aged Care (TRAC) where the palliative approach is integrated into teaching in aged care. The students are supervised while on placement by the GP Tutor at Mt St Vincent Nursing Home Teaching in Residential Aged Care (TRAC). Students participate in Inter Professional Learning (IPL) with positive outcomes for the students. The students have participated in the research with Wicking TRAC education from 2013-2015.

The RCS Clinical Lecturer is the convenor for the University of Tasmania School of Medicine 4th and 5th year palliative care education, working with the other palliative care lecturers across the state to review the curriculum and to have standardised online resources and education by the end of 2016.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Review of the General Practice Palliative Care Registrar. Abstract submitted to ANZSPM 2016 conference.

“Medical Students and their understanding and perceptions of palliative care medicine education” in edit; Adrian Y.S.Lee, Brodie Carlon, Rosemary Ramsay, Thiru Thirukkuman.

“Prescribing Practices of General Practitioners in an Aged Care Facility before and after introduction of Teaching in Residential Aged Care (TRAC)” Cheek C, Ramsay R, Allen P, Shires L, Davis K, Selvarajan S; in data collection.

“Palliative patients presenting to the Emergency Departments in North West Tasmania- the reasons and implications” Cheek C, Jaffray L, Allen P, Ramsay R, Riugrok M et al; awaiting outcome of grant application.

INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP

Establishment of the General Practice Palliative Care Registrar post. The Specialist Palliative Care Service recently developed the GP Registrar post in palliative care. Future registrars will be trained in Palliative Care and Medical Education in a collaboration between the THS and the RCS to provide ongoing rural generalist training. Three GP Registrars have completed the post returning to rural practice in Tasmania. A fourth registrar has worked in the combined teaching and palliative care post and is soon to return to rural general practice in Tasmania. The research and evaluation of the post is in the final stages. Achievements of the post include: GPTT has approved the post for extended skills training, RACP has approved the post for the Clinical Diploma in Palliative Medicine, the RACGP and ACRRM are reviewing the post as an Advanced Skills post for rural training. This important post ensures a General Practice workforce with both willingness to work in, and skills in palliative medicine in the future.