

# Rural Palliative Care Project

Newsletter

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**STOP PRESS:** Funding was recently received by The Southern Highlands Division of General Practice for a 20month project to work with health and community services to deliver better coordination in palliative care services wherever they are provided within the Wingecarribee Shire.

This project has 5 components and will focus strongly on multidisciplinary and team approaches to care. It aims to consider all aspects of patient care - medical treatment, nursing care, allied health input, psychosocial and spiritual support and carer considerations.

A Local Advisory Panel has been established to provide governance and to guide the project. Members include: GPs Terry Flynn( Ann Parker, filling in) and David Kardachi.

Palliative Care Medical Specialists - Amanda Walker and Lynne Kuwatha.  
Nurses Consultants - Jane Mahony and Mira Glavan.

Nursing Manager, Community Health  
Kate Partington

Steven Clancy, Chaplain, HarbisonCare  
and Heather Parkes, Consumer representative.

The CEO of the Division of General Practice, Warwick Ruscoe and Margaret Mogg as the Project Co-ordinator.

We are interested in reviewing current protocols and care pathways to establish consistent and high quality care for patients wherever they may require that care - hospital, in the community, in a palliative care unit or in residential aged care.

The 5 elements of the project are:

- provision of effective and accountable systems to manage funds and the project components and ensure sustainability.
- Linkage of specialists palliative care services with local providers through policy and care pathway development
- To provide a de-identified data base of patient's details to track care encounters
- To consider and foster avenues for multidisciplinary team work and focused education
- To identify 'champion nurses' in all areas where palliative care is provided and develop a 'Link Nurse Program'

Much more on this important area of care as the project progresses:

For additional information, contact Margaret Mogg at the Southern Highlands Division of General Practice on 48 61 6084 or [Margaret@shdivgp.com.au](mailto:Margaret@shdivgp.com.au)