



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

from meeting of 27 March 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In line with our policy of transparency and open communication with the volunteers I am pleased to provide an update on the happenings of the Board since its previous meeting in February.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

On Saturday 25 March the Board met to review its achievements in 2016-2017 and to plan for the 2017-2018 financial year. We went right back to basics, starting with the Mission Statement, then we looked at what our organisation is (and is not) and how we deliver what is expected of it. The Board and the staff at PC ACT contributed to this discussion via written matrixes prior to the meeting and this feedback will form the foundation of the new Plan.

We reviewed our Governance, and in particular confirmed what works well and identified areas where we felt we could improve. We also looked at the issue of Diversity and agreed that as an organisation we needed to broaden our base to gain a better understanding of the dying and death traditions of other cultures and religions. This will be a body of work undertaken by the Board in co-operation with staff and volunteers.

There is still further work to complete the Plan but once it is finalised it will be posted on the website.

PALLIATIVE CARE AUSTRALIA'S PRESIDENTS' MEETING

I attended a meeting in Melbourne on 2 March with the Presidents of all the State based palliative care organisations. It transpires that PC ACT is the only body with a volunteer program that directly supports people with a life limiting illness and their carers. Other States concentrated their involvement on engaging and influencing government bodies in terms of funding, policy and programs. While PC ACT is also in this space we hold a niche position with our volunteer program.

CEO AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

The Data Project, which is a repository of online information relating to end of life issues, is on track with an anticipated completion date of end June. The Education Project which is aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of palliative care services, including end of life and Advance Care Planning, will kick off on 14 April and run to the end of November.

The CEO and/or staff have given presentations to the Buddhists, the Quakers and Canberra Rotary during the past month.

We have also seen a sizeable increase in the number of residential care referrals, with 18 new referrals in March.

The CEO attended a Compassionate Communities Symposium in late February where the keynote speaker was Dr Julian Abel, a palliative care consultant from the UK, who recently co-authored a guide to help communities develop support networks for those at the end of life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events are in the pipeline:

- National Volunteer Week 8-14 May with the Volunteers Dinner on 10 May
- National Palliative Care Week 21-28 May with High Tea at the Lodge on 20 May. Tickets are \$100.
- The Power of Music Concert 3 June at the Canberra Southern Cross Club. Tickets are \$40.

The movie night planned for 27 April has had to be deferred owing to the lack of a confirmed release date from the movie distributors for the movie we wanted to show. Another evening is being organised.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports for the months of January and February were tendered by the Treasurer. We are continuing to track well against budget with no significant outstanding accounts for payment.

CLOSURE OF THE DAY HOSPICES

In the middle of last year PC ACT was advised by ACT Health that funding for the two day hospices would cease at the end of this financial year. The CEO and members of the Board have been working with the day hospices for several months to facilitate an orderly closure/transfer of the service. To allow sufficient time to finalise all activities such as ensuring clients are catered for either via home based care or transferring them to another service and to ensure all accounts are paid up to date and assets transferred, the cessation date for the South Side service has been set for 7 April with 10 April for North Side.

Louise Mayo
President

NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 May 2017 (owing to Anzac Day public holiday in late April)