



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

from meeting of 30 April 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CEO

I am delighted to welcome Tracy Gillard as the new Chief Executive Officer for Palliative Care ACT. Tracy holds a Bachelor of Information Management and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Canberra. Her career has focussed on delivering organisational outcomes and strategic priorities through positive leadership. She has highly developed skills and experience in areas of social policy development and stakeholder engagement. Tracy is passionate about community participation and improvement initiatives and has private sector experience working within, and in partnership with, not-for-profit, research and corporate organisations. Please welcome Tracy to our organisation.

I want to place on record my sincere thanks to Julie Elliott for the excellent job she has done as Acting CEO since January. Julie and the rest of the PalCare team all stepped up to bridge the gap during the recruitment process and on behalf of the whole Board, I extend our warmest appreciation.

MEETING WITH MINISTER FITZHARRIS

On 10 April Julie and I met with Minister Fitzharris and representatives from the Department of Health. This was a great opportunity to inform the Minister about the current work of PC ACT, including the increased demand for palliative care services in Residential Aged Care Facilities and home-based locations. We also spoke about the request from the Canberra Hospital for volunteer palliative care services, for which we are not currently funded, as well as the work we are undertaking in establishing The Hub.

We were asked to provide the cost of placing volunteers at the Canberra Hospital, as well as the cost of additional volunteers working in home-based care. Hopefully this will lead to increased funding for PC ACT.

The Minister was very interested in The Hub project, and, in particular, how accommodating a person for short term respite will be considerably less expensive than accommodating someone in the hospice or a hospital environment. It was a very productive meeting.

NEW MEMBER OF THE RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board agreed to the appointment of Ms Jocelyn Ashford as the fourth member of the Risk and Audit Committee. Ms Ashford currently works for the Department of Education and Training in the role of Branch Manager Parliamentary. She previously worked as an ICT leader and a financial statements auditor with the Australian National Audit Office. Ms Ashford joins Ms Michelle Kelly (Chair), Mr Anton Dowling (PC ACT's current Treasurer) and Mr Matt Tripovich (volunteer and ex-Board Member) on the committee.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Eleven new volunteers were trained in April and there are a further 60 applicants on the waiting list.



VISIT TO CANBERRA UNITY LODGE

Julie and I visited Canberra Unity Lodge to discuss the work of PC ACT, including The Hub. Mr Peter Forster, a long-term supporter of palliative care, presented the organisation with a very generous donation. His interest and generosity is greatly appreciated.

NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK

National Palliative Care Week will be launched at Villagio on Sunday 19 May between 9.30 -11.30 am. Morning tea and entertainment will be provided for residents, their families and invited guests. All costs associated with the launch will be funded by Palliative Care Australia.

During the week, PC ACT will be holding its volunteer appreciation event at Tom Elvin Centre. Please come along between 5.30 -7.30 pm on Thursday 23 May and see fourteen of your colleagues receive their Service Awards.

LAUNCH OF PC ACT TOOLKIT

Palliative Care ACT will be launching its employer and employee toolkit Supporting life-limiting illness in the workplace at a cocktail event at the National Gallery on Wednesday 22 May.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING SYMPOSIUM

Julie Elliott attended this symposium where representatives from the Canadian Medical Association shared their experiences in working in a jurisdiction that provides Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). One of the significant takeaways for Julie was the high level of engagement that Canadian GPs have with the concept of MAID, as against Australian GPs who are not strongly engaged at all. Ninety people attended the symposium.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer presented the financial report for the period January-March 2019. Income for the month was slightly below the budgeted amount, but expenses were also lower than budgeted. The Board approved the transfer of funds from the gift account at Bendigo Bank to Morgans to invest in a short-term deposit ie 3-6 months.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

Please be sure to set aside Saturday 19 October to attend our annual fundraising dinner at the Canberra Southern Cross Club. Again, we will have the fabulous butterfly net, a champagne bar, a 'blind' wine sale as well as a wonderful array of silent and live auction prizes. Please put the date in your diary and come along and help us to help those who are nearing the end of their lives.

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the PC ACT Board will be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 28 May 2019 at the Tom Elvin Centre.

Louise Mayo
President