



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

from meeting of 20 April 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

After the bushfires in December-January and the dreadful hailstorm later in January, no one could have foreshadowed the third, and most widespread, disaster - the coronavirus. Like many other organisations, Palliative Care ACT has been hit by the impact of the pandemic. A significant percentage of our workforce has had to change the way in which we operate and provide much needed services to our community.

Of course, the demand for support from our clients and carers is still there and we have been investigating ways we can deliver service in the changed circumstances. Four initiatives are currently being developed.

These are:

Isolation Relief: People at the end of their lives often have difficulties communicating with loved ones who are interstate or overseas. Through the use of technology this can be partially overcome. Our experienced volunteers will take technology to clients to help them connect through video conferencing or telephone calls. We see this as a top priority, and we are aiming for implementation in the next week or so.

Palliative Support Call Out Service: With the current restrictions on contact and travel there is an increased possibility that a palliative care patient might die alone. Our plan is to ask those volunteers who are well trained in how to support someone at the end of life to be available on a call out service. The service will be for those who are actively dying but will not include COVID 19 affected clients.

Palliative Care Tele-Help: This service will offer information and support on palliative care support options including advance care planning, grief and bereavement. It is envisaged the service will be available from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm and be operated by experienced Palliative Care ACT staff.

Moments in Time: This program will match a trained volunteer life story writer with a client, so enabling the client to talk about a precious 'Moment in Time' from their life and have their recollection recorded. Reflecting on special time in a person's life can be therapeutic and fulfilling and help the person find a sense of peace.

The other primary issue discussed at the meeting was the financial position of the organisation. We are awaiting advice from the Government regarding our eligibility for payment under the stimulus package. If we are eligible it will certainly help bridge some of the shortfall we are experiencing due to the difficulty in fundraising in the current environment.

In this financial year, we raised well over \$100,000 from the annual dinner and the movie night but depending on circumstances this may not be possible in 2020-2021. As a consequence, the Treasurer and CEO worked through a number of scenarios from best to worst case. We have selected a scenario that would see a dramatic decrease in fundraising and the Treasurer will use that as the basis for his 2020-2021 draft budget, to be presented to the May Board Meeting.

We are also looking at other ways to raise funds. One idea that we are currently working up is a Wine Drive. It is in the embryonic stages at the moment, so stay tuned for further information.

The next meeting of the Board will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 25 May 2020 at the Tom Elvin Centre.

Warmest regards

Louise Mayo
President

NEXT MEETING

