

The Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research conducts research relevant to the fostering, promotion and critical study of palliative care, to contribute to global knowledge in palliative care and palliative medicine.

About us

The centre has a statewide role in palliative care education and research. We are part of St. Vincent's and affiliated with the University of Melbourne through the Department of Medicine at St. Vincent's and the School of Nursing and Social Work. We provide programs and services and work with a range of other organisations involved in the education, research and delivery of palliative care programs. We maintain strong links with other education and research bodies, professional associations, service providers and consumer organisations concerned with palliative care.

The centre receives core funding from the Department of Human Services Victoria, research funding from Victorian and Australian government agencies and other funding bodies, revenue from student fees and funding for special purposes from the Centre for Palliative Care Foundation.

Operational and financial accountability is through the Division of Medical and Specialist Services, St. Vincent's.

The centre's mission is to further the development of clinical practice in palliative care. We conduct research relating to palliative care, with an emphasis on planned and programmed strategic research having a focus on applied clinical research.

We also develop education programs, directly and indirectly providing education for palliative care specialists in medical, nursing and allied health and generalists including medical, nursing and allied health professionals who may be required to provide palliative care.

Projects in progress or completed

- Nurses Board of Victoria – toward optimal facilitation of family meetings in palliative care.
- Department of Health and Ageing – group education program for family caregivers of palliative care patients.

- Department of Human Services – development and implementation of an evidence-based palliative care teaching program for hospital junior medical staff; development of a statewide coordinated specialist and generalist palliative medicine training program.
- Implementation of the Liverpool Care Pathway for imminently dying patients at St. Vincent's geriatric evaluation and management units.
- NHMRC – helping family caregivers of palliative care patients manage their role: evaluation of a hospital-based group education intervention; improving the psychological wellbeing of family caregivers of home-based palliative care patients: a randomised controlled trial.
- beyondblue Victorian Centre of Excellence – toward the identification and minimisation of depression and psychological distress in family caregivers of people receiving palliative care.
- Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation – epidemiological study of patterns of hospitalisation in patients who die with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; a qualitative exploration of the needs of patients with severe COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); exploration of the requirements and feasibility for a Victorian Palliative Care Research Collaborative; group education program for family caregivers of palliative care patients.

The team

Assoc Prof Peter Hudson, Director; Dr Mark Boughey, Deputy Director of CPCER and Director of Palliative Medicine; Anne Harbison, Research Assistant; Dr Jennifer Philip, Deputy Director of CPCER and Deputy Director of Palliative Medicine; Karen Quinn, Research Fellow; Dr Suzanne Robson, Research Fellow; Dr Kristina Thomas, Research Coordinator / Research Fellow; Dawn Whittal, Research Assistant

Grants

Austin H, Kearney J, Hudson P, Sikka E

Development of a statewide coordinated specialist and generalist palliative medicine training program. Victorian Department of Human Services, (2007-2009), \$164,896

Hudson P, Aranda S, Quinn K

Toward optimal facilitation of family meetings in palliative care. Nurses Board of Victoria, (2006-2008), \$50,000

Hudson P, Philip J

Exploration of the requirements and feasibility for a Victorian Palliative Care Research Collaborative. Victorian Cancer Agency, (2008), \$100,000

Hudson P, Remedios C, Clifton D, Crewdson M, Hall C, Clarke D

Toward the identification and minimisation of depression and psychological distress in family caregivers of people receiving palliative care. beyondblue Victorian Centre of Excellence, (2006-2010), \$200,000

Hudson P, Trauer T, Kelly B, Oldham L

Improving the psychological wellbeing of family caregivers of home based palliative care patients: a randomised controlled trial. Commonwealth Government – NHMRC, (2008-2010), \$300,000

Helping family caregivers of palliative care patients manage their role: evaluation of a hospital-based group education intervention. NHMRC, (2008-2009), \$219,810

Hudson P, Kristjanson L, Quinn K, Ashby M, Fisher J, Braithwaite M, Brumley D, Cockayne M

Group education program for family caregivers of palliative care patients. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, (2006-2008), \$99,176

Group education for program for family caregivers of palliative care patients. Bethlehem Research Griffiths Foundation, (2006-2008), \$105,821

Philip J, Gold M, Mclver S, Miller B, Douglass J, Sundararajan V, Brand C, Komesaroff P, Thomas S

A qualitative exploration of the needs of patients with severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Bethlehem Research Griffiths Foundation, (2008-2009), \$47,683

Philip J, Quinn K, Austin H, Eleanor F, Trewartha J

Implementation of the Liverpool Care Pathway for imminently dying patients at St. Vincent's geriatric evaluation and management units. Victorian Department of Human Services, (2008), \$49,996

Weil J, Philip J, Gold M, Mclver S, Rotstein L

The development and implementation of an evidence-based palliative care teaching program for hospital junior medical staff. Victorian Government Department of Human Services, (2008), \$45,297

Select international presentations

Boughey M

- Speaker, “Return to country” the cultural imperative for indigenous Australians to die in their community’, Singapore Palliative Care and Hospice Conference, Singapore, August 2008
- Speaker, ‘Advanced care planning for indigenous Australians’, Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine Conference, Darwin, Australia, September 2008

Hudson P

- Speaker, ‘Evaluation of a psycho-educational group program for family carers in home-based palliative care’, 5th Research Forum of the European Association of Palliative Care, Trondheim, Norway, May 2008
- Speaker, ‘Group education program to prepare family carers for supporting a dying relative at home: final evaluation’, 17th International Congress on Palliative Care, Montreal, Canada, September 2008

Philip J

- Speaker, ‘Second medical opinions: views of patients and their physicians’ and ‘The dynamics of second medical opinions’, 17th International Congress on Palliative Care (Terminally Ill), Montreal, Canada, September 2008

Collaborations

International Palliative Care Family Carer Research Collaboration

Publications

Hudson P, Quinn K, O’Hanlon B, Aranda S 2008, ‘Family meetings in palliative care: multidisciplinary clinical practice guidelines’, *BMC Palliative Care*, 7, 12

Hudson P, Quinn K, Kristjanson L, Thomas K, Braithwaite M, Fisher J, Cockayne M 2008, ‘Evaluation of a psycho-educational group programme for family caregivers in home-based palliative care’, *Palliative Medicine*, 22, 270-280

Payne S, Hudson P 2008, ‘Assessing the family and caregivers’, *Palliative Medicine*, Elsevier, Philadelphia

Philip J, Gold M, Sutherland S, Finlayson F, Ware C, Braithwaite M, Harris J, Kotsimbos T, Wilson J 2008, ‘End-of-life care in adults with cystic fibrosis’, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 11, 2, 198-203

Quinn K, Hudson P 2008, ‘Palliative Care – the essentials: evaluation of a multidisciplinary education program’, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 11, 8, 1122-1129