



Advance Care Planning Tricia Hazeleger

Plans, Aims and Strategies:

- The Advance Care Planning Initiative (East Hume and Border) supports communities and health care organisations to take a regional approach to the implementation of Advance Care Planning.
- The Advance Care Planning Initiative, auspiced by Central Hume Primary Care Partnership, is funded by Networking Health Victoria in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Advance Care Planning Initiative action plan is focused on community awareness driven by community members, inter-professional education, agency readiness, resource development and project operational efficiency.

Achievements & Successes

- Community Advance Care Planning awareness information has been regularly provided to Auntie Jean Chronic Health and General Practice Registrar groups
- Community Advance Care Planning forums were most recently facilitated in Albury/Wodonga (07/10/2015 – 140 participants) and Beechworth (14/11/2015 – 30 participants)
- Feedback from community education activities is leading to exploration of a program of volunteer led 'travelling' Advance Care Planning information sessions to reach existing community groups and events
- Professional training is provided regularly by locally based trainers in the regional centres (with additional sessions provided in smaller rural areas) in the areas of:
 - *Respecting Patient Choices*
 - *Decision Assist*
- Health service Advance Care Planning action plans currently being developed with/at Albury Wodonga Health, Northeast Health Wangaratta and Benalla

Advance care planning (ACP), for the purposes of our collaborative work, is understood to be the process of planning for future health and personal care whereby a person's values, beliefs and preferences are made known so they can guide clinical decision making at a future time when that person cannot make or communicate their decisions due to lack of capacity.

Bringing it Together

- Health service Advance Care Planning action plans are well underway at Albury Wodonga Health, Northeast Health Wangaratta and Benalla
- Developing a regionally endorsed approach to Advance Care Planning information (brochure, website), procedures (alerts) and pathways (ambulance, health service, residential aged care, home and community care and GP clinics)

Advance Care Planning Team

- **Advance Care Planning Project Manager**
- **Advance Care Planning Working Groups**
 - * **Health Services/Agencies/Providers, General Practitioners, Ambulance, Community Members, Aboriginal Health Services/Agencies/Providers, Financial/Legal Professionals.**
 - Consultation and communication
 - Establishing and facilitating systems that support networking and collaboration
 - Policy and Program development and implementation
 - Collaborate to use linkages and pathways to ensure smooth transition of the advance care plan as a component of usual care across the services

Visions for the Future

- Community Advance Care Planning forums planned for Mansfield and Alpine in 2016
- Development of solicitor Advance Care Planning Kits for trial by local legal professionals
- Health service Advance Care Planning action plans in Tallangatta and Mansfield
- Greater community involvement: Local community based Advance Care Planning groups have the best chance of ensuring the community awareness activities are relevant and well targeted
- Further consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce/communities to develop culturally appropriate Advance Care Planning awareness, information and documentation
- Development of an Advance Care Planning tool kit to assist with the take-up of Advance Care Planning conversations across other rural areas

Future Sustainability

- Involvement and investment in the community-based Advance Care Planning Group by local health services increases local ownership and commitment to future Advance Care Planning development
- Communities health literate in Advance Care Planning
- Workforce training/professional development in Advance Care Planning
- Working collaboratively to enhance advance care planning works best to achieve change in rural and regional areas
- Regular monitoring and evaluation to determine what works and what can be improved
- Consistency across Advance Care Planning documentation — including across state border communities
- A central Region depository for all Advance Care Planning documentation

