

PEPA

Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

THE NATIONAL
PALLIATIVE CARE
PROGRAM

Most people with a life limiting illness wish to spend their final time in their own home. Indeed 90% of the patient's care during the last 12 months of life occurs at home with the support of their GP and community nurses. 'Successful care of dying people will always require GP's to shoulder most of the clinical load' (Mitchell et. Al 2004)

Many doctors care for people with life-limiting conditions such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, end stage organ failure, cancer, cystic fibrosis or severe dementia. If you support patients with these types of conditions, then PEPA may provide you with further skills and experience to improve your care of your patients.

PEPA is an education program providing General Practitioners (GPs) and Rural and Remote Medical Practitioners an opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the palliative approach, by undertaking a supervised clinical attachment with a specialist palliative care service and establishing networks of support.

PEPA has three learning components.

1. The supervised clinical attachment to a specialist palliative care service aims to offer experience in acute hospital consultancy, inpatient palliative care and community practice.
2. Post-placement support aims to support the participant to integrate their learning back into their own practice and offer ongoing networks of support across settings and disciplines.
3. A planned workplace based activity implemented in your own practice within three months of completing the supervised clinical attachment aims to consolidate and facilitate ongoing learning in your practice setting.

What about CDP points?

Continuing professional development points have been allocated to this program by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, as a Category One Activity.

How will PEPA work?

Following review of applications and the selection process, the Queensland PEPA Program Manager will organise the clinical attachment at a specialist palliative care service. Eligibility for the travel, meals and accommodation allowance will be determined by the PEPA manager on the basis of the applicant's geographical location, and the distance to the host site. Following placement, all participants will be linked into post-placement support activities.

Will there be any financial support?

Funds have been allocated to support medical staff attending a clinical attachment. These funds include:

- GP practices / employers will be compensated for costs associated with backfilling to a maximum of 32 hours at \$135/ hour plus GST.
- Travel and accommodation assistance for rural participants.

How to apply

Please read the ***PEPA Information Kit and the application form..*** This program will be offered from now until December 2009.

GP Updates in Palliative Care Workshops

PEPA is also offering workshops in regional and metropolitan centres for GP's to update their knowledge and skills in palliative care.

For further information please contact the Queensland PEPA Program Manager (07) 3636 6216 OR e-mail: Kathryn_Laurent@health.qld.gov.au