



Victoria Hospital Palliative Care

Second Annual Report: Abundant Life Palliative Care Program at Victoria Hospital

A successful public-private partnership

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2013 A Successful year

1. Introduction

It is clear that this program has grown from strength to strength with 2013 having been one of our best years since our inception. Definitely from my point of view it has been a year filled with success stories. Our aims and objectives of 2009 have been met and we continue to strive towards fulfilling our integration into Victoria Hospital. This report has to be read in conjunction with previous annual reports of 2011/2012.

Patient care

In 2013 we achieved the 1000th patient in our program. We have widened our patient referral criteria and have increased Cancer referrals. In fact we identified a waiting time for patients to be seen by St Luke's Hospice and decided that we would be the stop gap, ensuring palliative care during this time. We have continued to do home visits.

Due to our staff constraints we have not been able to make use of our Donation of Syringe Drivers. This would require a Nursing Sister to do daily home visits.

We continue to strive to provide the best care with our current challenges.

Staff Care

We almost managed an injury free year but unfortunately Dr Cupido took time off with Burn Out again. We have had to review our structures and look forward to the new approach and 2014 will be the year. Sister Pitout had a good year, with improved support from the Hospital Management. Sr Gail Jones is her Supervisor from the hospital side. This has helped the integration process but has a number of challenges that will be tackled in 2014. The main concerns are Sr Pitout's salary and pay progression. Poor communication from the OPD management continues due to no computer and internet access in Sr Pitout's office.

Rebecca Lazarus is now employed full time by the hospital and this has improved social services for the entire hospital. She continues to be our primary Social Worker.

Fatima Gallow is no longer on our team as she is employed by agency and is the doctors' secretary. This busy full-time job is still not a secure employment for her. Despite this Fatima still does our Abundant Life Statistic. We thank Fatima for her ongoing involvement.

Joy Hunter has been employed by the UCT department of Family Medicine/Palliative Care as a full time researcher and is based at Abundant Life. She has done the Impact Study in 2013 with enormous success. This partnership has grown and improved understanding of palliative care in our setting.

Volunteers

We had a Roller Coaster year in this regard.

Melita Ford came along and was very timid and unsure of herself, but new she loved working with patients. We managed to send her on training to be a volunteer at St Luke's Hospice. She became a real asset to the team, running the Friday Sessions and assisting Pitout a great deal. She unfortunately needed greater income and left us after a very productive time at AL.

Genevieve Benjamin was a breath of fresh air with her enthusiasm and excellent people's skills. She was definitely the administrator we needed trying to organize our Shop, office and fund raising. Unfortunately she left for a permanent job and we wish her well.

Naeema Luddy was exciting and a hand on lady. She took over the Shop, got us to put in shelving, put in place necessary stock process. We had her doing a number of events representing us at a stall at the

Victoria Cricket Club tournament. She also went through to the annual hospice day where she did the same. She has left us for a more permanent income.

Other Volunteers mentioned by Sr Pitout

We managed to pay our volunteers a stipend of R2000 per month but this barely covered their travelling costs.

Students

We had the Connect-123 group of 5 Students each and this was extremely successful.

We also had electives from Stellenbosch. We received excellent feedback from all students who attended.

Doctors

Dr Doyle spent another 6 months with us and we loved the help. An enormous amount of gratitude for her generous contribution.

Dr Pickard approached us in 2013 and she has helped by visiting a few times per month assisting Sr Pitout.

Financials

What a year!

Most of our expenses are covered by the hospital but we would love to have more permanent assisting staff and that requires funding. The Connect-123 project was to raise money. IT DID JUST THAT. We raised R40 000 over 2 months.

Our monies are in the Academic Fund and the Hospital Board. The financials remain a problem area as we cannot control these funds and have red tape rapping us like MUMMIES.

Integration into the hospital

This is happening as planned. We are seldom acknowledged till we take a leave of absence. We were so missed that staff were asking for us to return. The COO Dr Anke Nitszche asked for us to please continue. We now have the vehicle with Mr Charlie Davids and Llewellyn Coetzee porter running the transport service.

Research

We managed to publish our first work in the International Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, a prestigious palliative care journal. We started and completed phase 1 of the IMPAQT Study. The results were absolutely brilliant.

We continue with IMPAQT and awaiting INSPIRIT.

Dr Cupido attended the FCP SA Physicians conference at Wild Coast where he presented Palliative Care in Medicine, for Organ Failure patients. This was sponsored and went off very well.

Events

We were lucky to have Mrs Jaffer again host another fantastic Evening of entertainment in aid of Abundant Life. Esperer Events also hosted a very exciting evening of entertainment and fashion with a number of celebrities present. Unfortunately this was not as financially successful as the show itself.

Partnerships and sponsors

The Rotary Club of Claremont and Amersham UK have been amazing. We received our Vehicle and this was an exciting say, more so in September when we finally got to using it.

We had Sr Pitout's Office renovated and we now have a Rotary Room in Medical Female Ward where we can counsel patients.

What a year 2013 was with many more ups than downs.

Well Done Team!!!

Acknowledgment

This program would not have been possible without the support from staff at Victoria Hospital, the Hospice Palliative Care Association, and St Luke's and Living Hope hospice.

The following people are to be acknowledged:

Victoria Hospital: Dr Petro Frankenveld, Dr Katherine Krige, Ms F Salie, Ms R Isaaqs, Ms C Otto.

HPCA: Mrs Maria Demjan, Dr Liz Gwyther

St Luke's & Living Hope hospice: Dr R Krauser, Ms J Rixon, Sr M Tucker, Pastor John, Sr E Pepper,
Michelle, Nisha

I've told my children that when I die, to release balloons in the sky to celebrate that I graduated.

For me, death is a graduation." Elizabeth Kubler-Ross