

SCHOOL OF ENTERPRISE

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN PALLIATIVE CARE

1. BACKGROUND

As part of its strategy to offer multidisciplinary education in palliative care, the St Vincent's Hospital and The University of Melbourne Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research (CPCER) wishes to offer university accredited graduate training in palliative care. The School of Enterprise has participated in a number of general strategy and education strategy meetings to advise on possible education solutions that could be developed and delivered to meet the Centre's strategic requirements, and the development of a Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care has been proposed.

There are currently not enough physicians, nurses and allied health workers who have specialist knowledge of palliative care and not enough leaders in the field of palliative care. Demand for palliative care is high and will increase further over the coming years as people live longer, often with complex multiple medical conditions. In recognition of this, the Department of Human Services has recently announced their commitment to fund scholarships over three years specifically for health professionals working in palliative care who undertake postgraduate study. The award course would be targeted at people working in specialist palliative care and aim to build skills in specialist palliative care.

2 COURSE/PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The course aims to be the industry standard for working in specialist palliative care and will be delivered by experts in their fields, drawn from multiple institutions around Victoria, as appropriate. The course will explore the core concepts related to palliative care, including symptom management, communication skills, evidence based practice, non malignant palliative illnesses, psychosocial issues and the role of the family caregiver.

3 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Recommended separately by Academic Board

4 COURSE/PROGRAM STRUCTURE

To satisfy the requirements of the Specialist Certificate in Palliative Care, students need to complete 2, 12.5 credit point subjects.

- Fundamentals of Palliative Care (12.5 point subject)
- Critical inquiry in Palliative care (12.5 point subject)

5 AVAILABILITY OF COURSE

The course is intended to be available on a part-time basis to fee-paying Australian students from semester 1, 2008.