

TPG aged care NEWS

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New Office Staff Member

I wish to welcome our new Administration Officer, Carol who you will all be getting to know in the future.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is that time of the year again when three public holidays fall very close together. This year the Easter holidays that impact on service delivery are Good Friday (March 30), Easter Monday (April 2) and Anzac Day (25 April) falls on a Wednesday.

Our administration staff are already working to ensure that we can to provide a make-up service for clients who usually receive services on those days. As always we will give preference to people who receive a fortnightly cleaning service because if they miss a service they will have to wait a whole month for a service. This means that those clients who receive weekly services may have to forego one service.

OUR NEW LOOK

Last year at this time I advised of the changes occurring in the aged care industry. Our first year under the new regime has been successful but with every change there are consequences - one of which is that we are faced with increasing competition.

It means that we have to ensure that our voice isn't lost in the

noise. As such we have embarked on a modest rebranding exercise to keep our 'brand' relevant. You all would have had seen some of this change with the different invoice format and I have enclosed a copy of our new look brochure.

After Easter, you will see that our new website is up and running and in a couple of months our support workers will be wearing a different type of shirt.

END OF LIFE PLANS

How hard is it to talk about how you would like to be treated at the end of your life. ABC 720 had a discussion on this topic on Monday 19 March which was hosted by Nadia Mitsopoulous who interviewed my daughter, Shannon who is a Nurse Practitioner and Dr Margaret Sealy who is a Counsellor working with Murdoch University. The topic was very well received and the program had to be extended over the usual 25 minutes to 55 minutes because of the interest shown by callers.

What was clear from the response was that only 10% of people who find themselves at the end of their life have any

formal structures in place to share how they would like to be treated at this crucial time. The discussion examined what it means to respect the final wishes of the dying when most of us are reluctant to even talk about the issue of death.

The information provided during the discussion centred on Advance Care Planning and included the nitty-gritty stuff like a will, powers of attorney, power of guardianship and advanced health directives. It also included the things around the edges like where do you want to spend your final hours; what will happen to your pets; and what do you want played at your funeral, etc?

Advance care planning is the process by which patients make decisions that can guide their future health care if they become unable to speak for themselves. It is based on the principle of respect for each person's autonomy. Advance care plans reflect patients' own values and concerns, require patients to understand their medical condition, and also the benefits and burdens of possible treatments. They are important in guiding decision-making at the time when a patient is too unwell to make their own decisions, or is unable to communicate.

Advance care planning requires conversations between patients, their doctors, and their surrogate decision maker and your rights can be documented in an ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVE. This is a legal document that came into effect in Western Australia in 2010 when changes were made to the Guardianship Act.

Palliative Care WA provide seminars on this issue and information can be obtained by calling 1300 551 704.

Relevant documents can be obtained from **The Office of the Public Advocate WA** at publicadvocate.wa.gov.au

Dr Scott Blackwell and Shannon now operate the **Joondanna Medical Centre** and provide a service to assist their patients develop

the documentation required to ensure that their wishes are both known and adhered to at the end of their life.

Further information is available from Dr Blackwell and Shannon by calling 9443 2507.



WHO IS THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE WORLD?

A bushwalker and Donald Trump are passengers on a small plane.

Suddenly flames shoot out from the engine. The pilot announces that the plane is going to crash and they must all bail out.

"We have parachutes on board," he says, "but unfortunately only two of them. We will have to decide which of us uses them and who must miss out."

Immediately Trump springs to his feet, grasps one, straps it on and makes his way to the door. "I get a parachute," he says. "The world needs me. Believe me, I'm the smartest guy in the world." And with that he opens the door and he jumps out.

The pilot says to the bushwalker, "Now we have to figure out which of us will use the one remaining parachute."

"No problem," replies the bushwalker, "the smartest guy in the world just jumped out of the plane wearing my backpack."