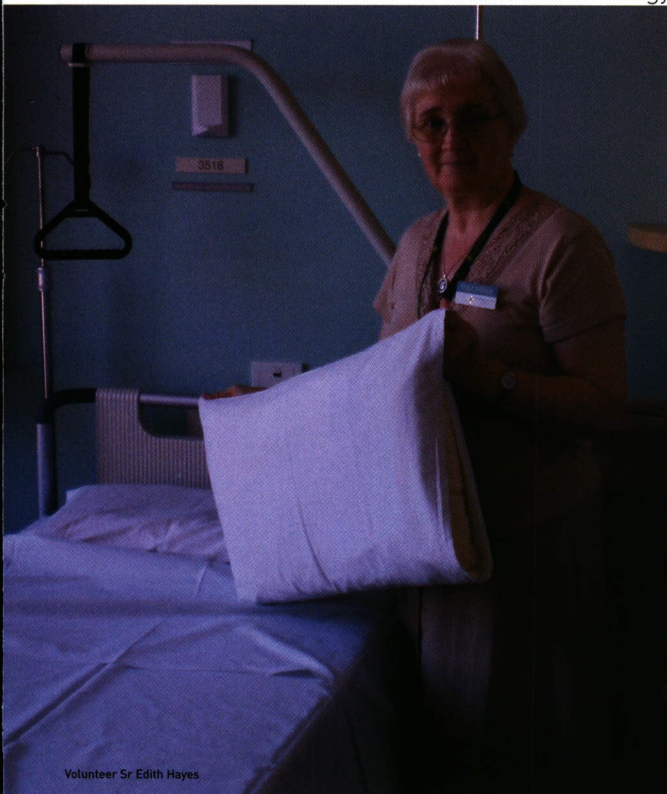


## Palliative/Oncology **focus**



Volunteer Sr Edith Hayes

health reform process in Western Australia supports the exploration of innovative models of care and provides a unique opportunity to plan for an evidence-based paediatric palliative care service. It is anticipated the service will be coordinated by the child and adolescent health service and will provide the opportunity to evaluate best practice models for palliative and respite care which is essential to the management of children in their home setting.

### REFERENCES

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## LEADING AND LEARNING – PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE

BY KAREN PUVOGEL AND JANET TAYLOR

The 2nd national palliative care nurses Australia conference will be held on 12-13 September 2008 in Adelaide in South Australia. All nurses with an interest in caring for people and their families/caregivers with a life limiting illness are invited to participate in this two day conference titled *Leading and Learning*.

The title was chosen as palliative care nurses are often leaders in the workplace, in government and in moving forward with creative projects to improve the quality of care for people with life limiting illnesses. Nurses possess humility and the openness to learn from each other, to share achievements and failures, knowing this can lead to an increase in knowledge, understanding and personal growth in both circumstances.

The conference key note speaker, Dr Mary Vachon from Toronto is a name that many nurses may be familiar with. Dr Vachon is a nurse, clinical sociologist, psychotherapist, researcher, educator and cancer survivor. Her publications cover topics on bereavement, occupational stress in health care professionals, cancer survivorship, family stress and spirituality. She will address the conference on both days.

Conference themes cover policy and service delivery, collaborative approaches to palliative care, clinical aspects of care and innovative settings of care.

For more details and updates on the conference: <http://www.plevin.com.au/acnaz2008>.

For more information about Palliative Care Nurses Australia, visit: <http://www.pcna.org.au>.

## PALLIATIVE CARE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

BY LEANNE MONTEROSSO

Findings from a nurse led study in Western Australia have been used by the Palliative Care Network Advisory Committee to develop guidelines for a state-wide paediatric palliative care service. Paediatric palliative care has also been identified as a priority area.

The lack of evidence to guide the provision of appropriate paediatric palliative care in Western Australia was the impetus for the nurse-led innovative study, *Caring for life: the needs of children and families in Western Australia*, the first of its kind in Australia (Monterosso et al 2007). A two-phase combined quantitative and qualitative study of 134 parents and 20 service providers was undertaken using face-to-face or telephone

interviews to administer six surveys.

Key findings clearly identified the need for the development of coordinated and community based palliative care services for children and adolescents in Western Australia including:

1. The need for a coordinated case management approach to palliative care.
2. Provision of home-based care throughout the palliative care trajectory wherever possible.
3. Ongoing support, contact and education for parents, families and professionals from key health professionals in the tertiary setting to facilitate provision of home care.
4. Development and implementation of educational programs for tertiary, peripheral and rural hospital-based staff, and community agencies.
5. Improved respite services.

A paediatric palliative care working group has since been established to implement these guidelines and comprises paediatric clinical experts from neonatal care, oncology, chronic care, palliative care and consumers. The current