



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Palliative Care Physician
Position Reports To: Clinical Director
Location: Geelong, Victoria
Employment Status: Part-Time
Organisational Level: Clinical

About Anam Cara House Geelong

Anam Cara House Geelong (ACHG) is a not-for-profit organisation. **Our Vision** is that everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, experience quality of life at end-of-life, and to die well in the place they choose. **Our Purpose** is an empowered and informed community where people make informed choices and they are in control of their own care.

We are committed to offering support to people, their families and carers who are seeking person-centred palliative and end of life care within the Geelong and wider region. Our services will include 24 hour end of life care, day and overnight palliative care, community outreach and equipment loan. Care occurs in a unique, home like environment with best practice clinical care including support from trained palliative care volunteers. The focus of person-centred palliative care is on the quality of life, symptom management and comfort.

At ACHG **Our Values** guide us to show Respect, Dignity, Accountability, Compassion and Excellence.

Position Purpose

The position of Palliative Care Physician at Anam Cara House Geelong (ACHG) you will play a pivotal role in providing compassionate and comprehensive care to guests facing life-limiting illnesses. In this integral role, you will be responsible for delivering guest-centered, holistic, and high-quality palliative care services that aim to enhance the quality of life for our guests and their families. You will work closely with our interdisciplinary team to alleviate suffering, manage symptoms, and support guests in their journey towards a peaceful and dignified end-of-life experience.

Key Responsibilities / Accountabilities

Other Responsibilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct comprehensive assessments of guests with advanced, life-limiting illnesses to determine their unique physical, emotional, and psychosocial needs. Develop and implement individualised care plans that focus on symptom management, pain control, and addressing end-of-life goals. Provide ongoing best practice, evidence based medical management that ensures guests' comfort and quality of life. • Work closely with a multidisciplinary team, including nurses, and other healthcare professionals, to ensure a holistic approach to guest care. Participate in regular team meetings to review guest cases, discuss care plans, and make necessary adjustments based on input from the team. • Effectively communicate with guests and their families, providing clear and compassionate explanations of diagnoses, treatment options, and end-of-life care choices. • Offer emotional support, guidance, and counselling to help guests and their families make informed decisions about their care. • Recognize and respect the diverse cultural backgrounds and beliefs of guests and their families. Provide culturally competent care and adapt communication and care plans as needed to accommodate individual preferences and values.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer education and training to fellow healthcare professionals, guests, and their families on palliative care principles, symptom management, and end-of-life care options. Support and empower guests and families to make informed decisions regarding their care. • Participate in quality improvement initiatives to continuously enhance the quality of palliative care services at ACHG. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of care plans, medications, and interventions, making recommendations for improvements based on best practices and evidence-based guidelines. • Maintain accurate and complete medical records in accordance with relevant regulations and standards. Document guest assessments, care plans, treatment outcomes, and advance care planning discussions. • Demonstrate a compassionate and empathetic approach in all guest interactions, recognizing and respecting the unique needs, values, and preferences of each individual under your care. • Ensure strict adherence to the healthcare regulations, policies, and procedures specific to palliative care in Victoria, including the legal requirements for controlled substances. Work within the bounds of the National Safety, Quality Health Services Standards, assist the Quality, Safety & Risk Manager in the accreditation program and align practice with standards. Participation in NDIS Certification processes and align practice with standards. • Participation in the QIC accreditation process and alignment of practice with standards. • Stay updated with the latest developments in palliative care, participating in relevant conferences, workshops, and training opportunities. • Engage in or support research activities related to palliative care to advance the knowledge and practices within the field. • Assist guests and families in creating advance care directives, discussing end-of-life care preferences, and ensuring their wishes are respected and documented. • Provide teaching to students undertaking their clinical placement at ACHG.
Professional competence and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain own professional knowledge and skills through participation and commitment in professional development opportunities. • Complete all mandatory training and education to comply with ACHG and other regulatory bodies.
Risk Management:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage risk and ensure formal risk assessments are conducted regularly. • Ensure work aligns with current ACHG policies and procedures.
People and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACHG values and behaviors are embodied throughout the organization. • ACHG values are considered in carrying out all interactions including with guests, team members, consulting clinicians and external agencies • Opportunities for personal development are provided. • Performance is reviewed and feedback provided as part of a regular cycle of activities
Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in best practice and delivery of OH&S and Emergency Management Procedures, encourage staff, guest, volunteers and visitors to be aware of the requirements. • Maintain an understanding of individual responsibility for guest safety and contribute to organisational quality and safety initiatives. • Accept responsibility for ensuring the implementation of health and safety policies and procedures and cooperate with ACHG in any action it considers necessary to maintain a safe working environment which is safe and without risk. • Report and record all incidents, mishaps and losses, investigate and ensure corrective actions are implemented as far as reasonably practical. • Participate in the OH & S committee and contribute to the clinical leadership requirements where applicable.

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Equal Opportunity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an environment where team members, volunteers and others are treated fairly and with respect, are free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification, and bullying.
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This Position Description may change and duties and responsibilities listed are not exhaustive and may change in accordance with changing requirements of the role.

Key Selection Criteria

- Registered with AHPRA as a medical practitioner
- Fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Palliative Care) or Fellowship of the Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine
- Evidence of continuing practice and medical education in Palliative Care medicine
- Strong commitment to guest and family-centered care and a compassionate approach to guest interactions.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team.
- Knowledge of pain and symptom management, ethical issues in end-of-life care, and advance care planning.

Other Requirements

- Current Police Check
- Evidence of immunisations as per ACHG Immunisation Policy including MMR, Varicella Zoster, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Influenza and COVID-19 (or acceptable evidence for any exemptions).
- Current Victorian Drivers License

Key Relationships

Internal:

- Director of Medical Services
- Clinical Director Palliative Care Services
- Director of Nursing
- Nursing Colleagues
- Environmental Services staff
- Volunteers
- CEO and Administration Staff

External:

- Community Palliative Care services
- PHN Palliative Care SIG
- Acute Health Services
- Primary Health Services
- Deakin University

Signature

Employee

Signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

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