

## Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care / APHN Diploma

Lien Centre for Palliative Care is pleased to invite applications for the 2012 intake of the Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care/APHN Diploma (Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network). This is a specially designed course run by the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), and the Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.

### Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care, Flinders University

This one-year distance-learning course includes two 2-week classroom intensives in Singapore.

The aim of the course is to give medical, nursing and health care professionals the opportunity to deepen knowledge and skills relevant to their practice.

The course was given the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Award for 2010. It provides:

- Leading edge content
- An interdisciplinary team approach that takes into account the diverse professional and cultural perspectives of the students
- Relevance to immediate and future professional needs
- Well-structured, enjoyable and successful learning
- A quality-accredited award from Flinders University.

If candidates wish to pursue further studies, credits from this course will go towards other Graduate Diploma or Masters programs offered by Flinders University and other universities.

### APHN Diploma

This requires completion of the Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care and a clinical attachment at an approved institution. Further details can be found on their website: [www.aphn.org](http://www.aphn.org)

### Entry Requirements for Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care

- The minimum entry requirement is an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in healthcare from an approved tertiary institution as deemed suitable by the Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University.
- Registered Nurses who do not have a Nursing Degree may be considered for this course if supported by strong recommendations.
- Experience in palliative care, aged care or related fields will be regarded as important but not essential.
- Applicants must have the English language proficiency required by Flinders University (see below).

### English Language Proficiency Requirements

Candidates must have one of the following:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – score of 550 (TWE 4.5); or
- TOEFL (internet) – 80 (20 in speaking/writing); or
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – score of 6.0 (6.0 in speaking and writing); or
- A score of 'C' or better in the Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), Cambridge, or
- Successfully completed a tertiary degree program taught in the English language.

### Please Note

*All English language test results must be no more than two years old on the day of receipt of the application for admission.*

### Course Fees

Standard Fee: SGD 12,000 (*Twelve thousand Singapore dollars*)  
Subsidised course fee for candidates from developing countries: USD 3,000 (*Three thousand US dollars*)

Candidates have the option to apply for:

- a) Lien Foundation – Singapore Hospice Council Scholarship (SGD 7,000)
- b) HMDP-ILTC Award

Further information about these subsidies and scholarships can be found at:

- a) [www.singaporehospice.org.sg](http://www.singaporehospice.org.sg)
- b) <http://www.aic-learn.sg/page.aspx?id=158>
- c) [www.aphn.org](http://www.aphn.org)

*Requests for financial assistance from self-employed applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis (Singapore Citizens or PR only).*

**Commencement Date** : 19 March 2012  
1st Classroom Intensive : 18 – 29 May 2012  
2nd Classroom Intensive : October 2012  
(Dates are subject to changes)

### Closing date for applications:

24 December 2011

### Application / Enrolment Enquiries

Lien Centre for Palliative Care  
National Cancer Centre Singapore  
Level 4, 11 Hospital Drive, Singapore 169610  
Tel: +65 6436 8153 Fax: +65 6220 7490  
E-mail: [geraldine.goh@duke-nus.edu.sg](mailto:geraldine.goh@duke-nus.edu.sg)

Candidates will be notified by Flinders University on the status of their applications.

### Faculty

Professor David Currow  
Associate Professor Cynthia Goh  
Associate Professor Rosalie Shaw  
Ms Meg Hegarty, Head, Senior Lecturer  
Dr Katrina Breden, Lecturer  
Dr Meera Agar, Lecturer  
Ms Kim Devery, Lecturer  
Ms Kate Swetenham, Lecturer

# COURSE OUTLINE

The Flinders University Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care is an 18-unit course extending over two semesters. Students are required to attend two 2-week intensive classes, as well as complete a range of written assignments. In order to do the assignments, students are required to search the literature widely in order to identify and critique best available evidence.

Learning methods include simulated patient/clinician interactions, and communication skills practice in safe, supported small group work. This course introduces a fresh new critical approach to symptom assessment and management that can be used across clinical settings and patient populations.

## **PALL8437 PALLIATIVE CLINICAL MANAGEMENT A (4.5 units)**

This topic is designed to provide an opportunity for various health care professionals to broaden their knowledge and understanding of a number of aspects of palliative clinical management.

The curriculum includes:

- the phenomenon of palliative care
- clinical assessment and decision making
- the clinical management of commonly encountered symptoms in an evidence-based framework
- disease trajectories
- terminal phase.

This topic aims to be interdisciplinary; the case examples and assessment requirements are not focussed on any particular discipline. The content is designed to heighten awareness of the various contributions that all health care workers make to the holistic care of a person living with a life limiting illness.

## **PALL8438 PALLIATIVE CLINICAL MANAGEMENT B (4.5 units)**

This topic is designed to be interdisciplinary; the case examples and assessment requirements are not focussed on any particular discipline. The content is designed to heighten awareness of the various contributions that all health care workers make to the holistic care of a person living with a life limiting illness. This topic provides an extension of some of the topics and issues raised in Palliative Clinical Management A.

The curriculum includes:

- limitations of palliative care
- assessment and clinical management of less commonly encountered symptoms in an evidence-based framework
- diagnosis and management of common palliative care emergencies
- practical and legal aspects involved in death and dying
- principles of rehabilitation in the palliative context.

*Information is subject to change by the course provider*

*Flinders University & National Cancer Centre Singapore  
11/10/2011*

## **PALL8430 COMMUNICATION AT THE END OF LIFE A (4.5 units)**

This topic aims to increase awareness of the psychosocial effects of terminal illness on clients and their families and on the student as a professional care-giver, and to practice the skill of sensitive communication in the palliative care context.

The curriculum includes:

- the meaning and milieu of death
- communication skills
- loss, grief and bereavement
- spiritual/existential issues
- recognising and articulating the implications of cultural diversity in the context of death and dying.

## **PALL8431 COMMUNICATION AT THE END OF LIFE B (4.5 units)**

This topic extends and deepens exploration of the concepts introduced in Communication at the End of Life A through a focus on:

- development of professional communication skills in complex situations, including working with difficult feelings such as anger, fear and anxiety
- working with families dealing with difficult situations and aspects of family dynamics in palliative care contexts
- complexities of grief including grief of children, disenfranchised grief and gender based issues
- the concept of healthy teamwork within the model of interdisciplinary teams and self care for health care professionals in challenging circumstances
- the development of negotiation and communication skills required in the coordination of multidisciplinary care and during transitions of care in a palliative setting.