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| Title | Understanding carer support in Victorian specialist palliative care services |
| Number | 78 |
| Authors | Danny Wong, Department of Health and Human Services |
| Abstract | <p>In the research literature, the needs of caregivers of palliative care patients have been divided up into four broad categories: • patient comfort/symptom management • information needs • practical care needs • emotional support Access to appropriate respite has also been shown to have positive impacts for carers and the people they are caring for, although the quality of evidence demonstrating the efficacy of respite is contested. The Victorian government has stated that all Victorians are entitled to quality end-of-life care, which relieves pain and suffering and provides empowering support to family, friends and carers. The role played by carers of people with a terminal illness will be a key factor in ensuring the government’s policy commitments are met. The department’s approach to fulfilling these policy commitments consisted of the following actions: • conducted a literature review to understand what types of interventions should be provided to carers to enhance both patient and carer outcomes • developed an environmental scan which was sent to specialist palliative care providers to gain an up-to-date, comprehensive understanding of the nature and level of service provision to carers of palliative care patients The findings from the environmental scan will be used to shape the government’s end of-life care framework by identifying gaps in the service delivery framework and opportunities to enhance practice.</p> |