Villa Maria Catholic Homes is developing a new program which involves volunteers supporting residents who are receiving palliative care in their aged care facilities.

Heike Fleischmann, PCV’s Volunteer Engagement & Capacity Building Manager, conducted two training days for 21 staff members from the Pastoral Care Practitioner Team, the Lifestyle Co-ordinator Team and the Volunteer Services Team.

Using the ‘train the trainer’ approach the training was based on the 2012 Palliative Care Volunteer Training Resource Kit involving a mix of different presentation styles. In addition to the PowerPoint presentation activities like icebreakers and get-to-know-each-other exercises encouraged interactions. There was also time allocated for sharing experiences and discussions.

The training finished with a brainstorming session on ideas, visions and strategies for the development and implementation of the new volunteer program.