


An Australian Knowledge Network for Palliative Care



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1. The Project



Background and specified
outcomes

1.1 Purpose of Project




⌘ "To scope the development of a Knowledge Network for palliative care in Australia. It is envisaged that the Knowledge Network will be multi-phased, incorporating a number of discrete components."

1.2 What is meant by a Knowledge Network?



- ⌘ Repository of resources
- ⌘ Vehicle to link practitioners
- ⌘ Mechanism to integrate and support various existing facilities and resources
- ⌘ Support the development of communities of practice
- ⌘ One stop shop


1.3 What is to be produced by the project



⌘ Conceptual model of a Knowledge Network for palliative care in Australia including components and functions; stakeholders and partners; governance and ownership.


⌘ Business plan identifying the resources needed; potential partners; implementation process; IT issues; and marketing and promotional strategies

2. The Issues




Key framing factors

2.1 For whom are we designing the network?




- ⌘ The palliative care community?
- ⌘ Practitioners?
- ⌘ Where do carers, patients and the community sit in the network?
- ⌘ Are there special needs groups e.g. rural and remote, multicultural, indigenous, MND, paediatric?

2.2 What is the purpose of the network?



- ⌘ To improve care of the patient?
- ⌘ To bring about clinical change?
- ⌘ To prevent isolation and create linkages?
- ⌘ To be a repository of resources?
- ⌘ To develop communities of practice?
- ⌘ To be a one-stop shop for everyone?

2.3 What should be on the network?




- ⌘ Clinical resources?
- ⌘ Community resources?
- ⌘ Research resources?
- ⌘ Service resources?
- ⌘ Education resources?
- ⌘ Communication networks and facilities to encourage interaction?

2.4 How should we link to what is currently available?

- ⌘ How do we make use of the resources currently available in Australia?
- ⌘ What relationship should CareSearch have to the network?
- ⌘ How do we organise relationships with other groups and facilities?

2.5 What are the barriers?



- ⌘ Is there a need?
- ⌘ "Silo" mentality
- ⌘ Duplicating existing resources
- ⌘ Insufficient resources and skill level
- ⌘ Too expensive
- ⌘ Trying to do too much

3. The Process




How we are investigating
the concepts

3.1 Who is investigating the concepts




- ⌘ Role of the palliative care community
- ⌘ Role of Knowledge Network Management Group
- ⌘ Role of local project group
- ⌘ Role of experts and specialist consultants

3.2 Membership of the Knowledge Network Management Group



- ⌘ Representative of CareSearch project: L. Kristjanson
- ⌘ Representative of ACEBCP: P. Philips
- ⌘ Representative of Palliative Care Inter-Governmental Forum: S. Hanson
- ⌘ Representatives from Academic institutions: P.Martin, H. Buchanan
- ⌘ Departmental representative: R. Evans
- ⌘ PCA Representative:
- ⌘ IT Expertise: G. Doherty
- ⌘ Indigenous Needs:
- ⌘ Consumer Health Forum:
- ⌘ Carers Australia:

3.3 Steps in the process




- ⌘ Investigating concept issues
- ⌘ Determining the final concept(s)
- ⌘ Analysing the IT, financial, governance, legal, marketing, partnership implications of the final concept(s)
- ⌘ Communicating with stakeholders
- ⌘ Developing the business plan

3.4 The role of communication




- ⌘ Importance of communicating and developing relationships with all who may be involved with, affected by, or use the Knowledge network
- ⌘ Communication strategies being used:
 - ⤵ Webpages in CareSearch;
 - ⤵ Project newsletters;
 - ⤵ Promotions within existing newsletters;
 - ⤵ Conference presentations;
 - ⤵ Knowledge Network tour.

3.5 How we are investigating concept options



- ⌘ Needs survey
- ⌘ Literature review
- ⌘ Website reviews
- ⌘ Identifying Australian sites
- ⌘ Feedback from the palliative community
- ⌘ Communications strategy

3.6 Analysing the concept option



- ⌘ Knowledge Network Management Group to determine the final concept option
- ⌘ Specialist advice from various groups will be sought on the implications of the final concept option

3.7 The Business Plan



- ⌘ A document that will allow a decision about a Knowledge Network
- ⌘ To cover concept framework and content; resource needs; legal and governance issues; relationships and linkages; IT status; marketing and promotional needs; sustainability proposals; and evaluation

3.8 How to get involved



- ⌘ Get project updates at the CareSearch website at www.caresearch.com.au
- ⌘ Join the email list for newsletters or send comments and ideas to Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au
- ⌘ Speak to someone on the Knowledge Network Management Group
- ⌘ Complete a needs survey for the Knowledge Network at www.caresearch.com.au