

## Project News No. 2: June 2004

### **Thank You for Your Interest!**

We have been overwhelmed by the response to this project. We initially sent out around 500 email newsletters and we have been flooded with other people wanting to join the mailing list and to learn more about the project.

We have also appreciated the ideas and contacts that people have sent us.

### **New Member for Management Group**

Roslyn Lockhart has joined the Management Group for this project. Roslyn is a member of Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) and is working in palliative care in Hume. Her knowledge and experience is most welcome on the group.

### **Knowledge Network Needs Assessment (Individuals)**

We are very interested in finding out what you believe would be most useful on a network. To help us gather this information, we have developed a short questionnaire on possible resources and content.

Everybody is welcome to complete the survey. Click on the web address below to be linked directly to the survey:  
<http://www.mortonblacketer.com.au/survey.asp/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=7>

### **Outline of the Concept design**

Much of the early work in this project has focused on

- what type of materials should be held on a knowledge network;

- what type of facilities and functions could form part of the network to support clinical practice; and
- what resources are available for patients, carers, and volunteers.

The working concept for the Knowledge Network involves access to a diverse set of resources. Different users will be able to follow pathways to access various sets of resources.

Navigational pathways will be designed for the following groups:

- members of specialist palliative teams
- health professionals
- patient and carers
- volunteers.

The types of resources that will be held on the network or accessed through the network include

- patient care materials
- clinical information
- literature and evidence databases
- service information and materials
- directory of services, associated organisations and relevant agencies
- educational programs
- research resources
- resources and fact sheets for patient and carers
- resources and fact sheets for volunteers.

All material included on the network will be evaluated.

This working concept of a Knowledge Network also includes bulletin boards, email groups and chatrooms to encourage communication and exchange.

### **Where we are in the process**

We are working with a web developer to prepare a report on the IT issues, specification requirements and indicative costs of a Knowledge Network. We will also be looking at a rollout strategy.

A rollout strategy will take into account the need to source and/or develop materials and to ensure that the web functions and resources are of good quality and easy to use.

To progress this component of the work, we'll be involved in defining the components of each element of the network, identifying the information that needs to be captured and stored, and looking at how it will be used by members of the network.

We will also be having discussions with various groups about how we can best support clinical functions and care practices.

### **The Next Steps**

The next phase of the project involves understanding the legal, financial and organisational implications of implementing and maintaining a Knowledge Network.

The Project Team members have already contacted or met with some groups who currently are involved in running networks, websites or associations to discuss organisational and governance issues.

Over the next few months we will be having more discussions as we look at possible structures and organisational arrangements.

These discussions and advice from some consultants will be used to develop a business report that will outline what would be involved in introducing this network.

### **Knowledge Network Tour**

To ensure that we have as good an understanding as possible of the needs and opinions of the palliative care community, we are arranging a Knowledge Network Tour.

Professor David Currow who is lead investigator on the project will be hosting a series of workshops around Australia.

The following workshop dates have already been organised:

Perth	Monday 12 July
Sydney	Thursday 15 July
Brisbane	Thursday 29 July

More dates will be finalised in the next couple of weeks.

Members of the email distribution list will be sent information on the workshop in their state.

Dates and venues will also be publicised on the Knowledge Network page of the CareSearch website. The website can be found at [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au)

### **Keeping in touch with the Project**

We would encourage you to provide feedback or to send us some useful website information.

We'd welcome your input in any of the following ways

- Join the email list for newsletters or send comments and ideas to [Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au)
- Speak to someone on the Knowledge Network Management Group.
- Complete a feedback survey for the Knowledge Network at <http://www.mortonblacketer.com.au/survey.asp/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=7>

The Palliative Care Knowledge Network Project is funded by a grant from the Department of Health and Ageing.