



FROM THE WEBSITE

Welcome to CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network*. The redeveloped website was officially launched on Monday 26 May as part of National Palliative Care Week. The Minister for Ageing Mrs Justine Elliot described CareSearch as an innovative web site that gives people with a terminal illness, their families and carers 24-hour access to practical information, support and advice.

The website has nine main sections which house the existing materials and functions as well as an array of new content and resources. We will be profiling some of these new resources in @CARESEARCH over the coming months. The home page details the nine main sections and provides quick links to some topical information. Once in the website, a double menu bar helps you navigate quickly to the needed information.

For health professionals, new pages on clinical practice provide a direct route to information, literature and evidence on many aspects of palliative care practice. The clinical pages provide a summary of the high level evidence that is currently available as well as providing real time PubMed searches on the topics. The symptom assessment scale (SAS) is one of the assessment tools that services have been using as part of the PCOC dataset. There are 7 core symptoms in the SAS: insomnia, appetite problems, nausea, bowels, breathing, fatigue, pain. CareSearch has featured these 7 symptoms in the initial pages written in the physical issues section of Clinical Practice.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/ClinicalPractice/Physical/tabid/130/Default.aspx>

For patients and carers, the materials produced last year have been transferred to the new site. This information has been expanded with a section for Specific Groups. This provides information about palliative care for groups that may have specific needs such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples or people with dementia.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/ForPatientsandFamilies/SpecificGroups/tabid/109/Default.aspx>

There are many other new pages and section in the website. Please take some time to look at the new site and see if there are materials that could be useful for you, colleagues or patients, families and friends. We would welcome your help in making sure those in the community who need palliative care information are aware of CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network*.



ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE WHO HELPED DEVELOP THE WEBSITE

The information and resources on the website have been developed with the invaluable contribution of expertise and experience of many members of the palliative care community. The Acknowledgements 2008 page records those who have already made a contribution this year. I'm sure many more will be added to the list in the coming months.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/AbouttheProject/Acknowledgements/2008/tabid/424/Default.aspx>

I would also like to publicly acknowledge the work of the Project Team in developing this resource. The website could not have been delivered without the skills, expertise and dedication of the project staff. Most of the staff are part time and some are casual. All of the staff listed below have shown an outstanding commitment to the vision of the project.

THE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON THE WEBSITE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY.

- > Dr Christine Sanderson, Researcher (Clinical Content)
- > Dr Catherine Burns, Researcher (Clinical Content)
- > Ms Ruth Sladek, Researcher (Knowledge Translation)
- > Ms Deb Rawlings, Researcher (Evaluation)
- > Ms Natasha Schembri, Marketing Coordinator
- > Ms Ruth Murton, Website Administrator
- > Ms Gail Dooley, Administrative Assistant
- > Mr Andrew Lyons-Reid, Literature Collections Assista
- > Ms Desley Reid-Orr, Literature and Project Assistance
- > Mr Todd Dooley, Marketing Assistance
- > Mr Cameron Shepherd, Research Assistance

Jennifer Tieman
Network Director

USING THE WEBSITE

We have substantially increased the amount of information in the website but most content can be found more quickly than before by using the double menu bar or the search box. The first menu bar outlines the nine main sections. When you click on one of those options the second menu bar describes the content in that section. Some of the headings in the second menu bar have pages and content within them which will be revealed when you click on that topic.

The bar at the bottom of the page contains a link to the site map and you can use this to overview all of the content. All the topics in the site map are live links that will take you immediately to the selected page.

The Using CareSearch webpage provides more details on how to get the most out of the website.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/UsingCareSearch/tabid/162/Default.aspx>



WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY

It's a Matter of Life and Death

Palliative Care Australia has launched this new web resource and community service announcement to mark National Palliative Care Week 2008. The web resource features the community service announcement, four vignettes in which four different people talk about their experiences with death and a chat page. You can find this resource at <http://www.lifeanddeath.org.au/>

Palliative Care for People Living at Home initiative

The Palliative Care for People Living at Home initiative is funding specialist palliative care services for projects of up to three years. The objective of these projects is to investigate ways of allowing people requiring palliative care to remain in their homes with their carers. Projects will help identify best practice care, including more efficient utilisation and integration of existing clinical and nursing services, improvement of in-home support (particularly after hours), new palliative care services in remote and rural communities, funded palliative care packages for clients living alone, in-house respite and training of carers.

Rural Palliative Care Project

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) is seeking expressions of interest from rural divisions of general practice and / or consortia of divisions, to participate in Wave 2 of the Rural Palliative Care (RPC) Project. Expressions of interest close on 13 June 2008. Further details available from <http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=24747>

Draft COMPAC Guidelines: Invitation to comment

The documents prepared for this project are available for public comment. Submissions will be accepted until June 16th, 2008. They are proposed for submission to the NHMRC for approval under section 14A of the National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992. Individuals and groups are invited to make a submission on the draft guidelines. The documents and the submission form are available at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/WhatisPalliativeCare/NationalPalliativeCareProgram/ComPAC/tabid/93/Default.aspx>

PROJECTS WILL HELP IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICE CARE, INCLUDING MORE EFFICIENT UTILISATION AND INTEGRATION OF EXISTING CLINICAL AND NURSING SERVICES...



Asia's first Palliative Care Research Centre

The Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS) has collaborated with the Lien Foundation to establish the Lien Centre for Palliative Care -- Asia's first research and training centre for end-of-life care. The Centre will be headed by Director Dr Cynthia Goh and will be located at the National Cancer Centre Singapore http://newshub.nus.edu.sg/headlines/0803/palliative_18mar08.htm

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research (CPCER) in Melbourne has recently completed a review of its strategic plan. Over 100 stakeholders from a variety of sectors participated in the development of the plan. The Centre has also developed a short course program for 2008. For further information contact palliativecare@mccp.unimelb.edu.au

The National Palliative Care Service Directory has been remodelled by Palliative Care Australia. The Directory now has particular entry points for patients and carers and for health professionals and services. The service directory is available at <http://pallcare.gky.com.au/c/pc?a=apps&ap=bd>

CONFERENCES

Conference: 2nd Australian Lung Cancer Conference 2008

Date: August 21-24 2008

Location: Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia

Conference: Respecting Choices Singapore Palliative Care Conference 2008

Date: August 29-30 2008

Location: Singapore

Conference: CATSIN 10th National Conference

Date: September 10-12 2008

Location: Adelaide, South Australia

Conference: ANZSPM

Date: September 24-27 2008

Location: Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

Conference: 1st International Conference on Public Health & Palliative Care

Date: January 16-17 2009

Location: Calicut, Kerala, India

Abstract Submission: Abstracts submission deadline
August 1 2008

Details on more conferences and links to conference websites can be found on the Conferences page at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/Education/Conferences/tabid/74/Default.aspx>

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

We have a variety of information pieces available for the palliative care community. You can view these resources on the website and download an order form.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/ProjectResources/PromotionalResources/tabid/433/Default.aspx>

Details on the launch including an audio recording of the speeches and photos from the day are included at the CareSearch launch page

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/ProjectResources/Media/CareSearchLaunch/tabid/825/Default.aspx>

All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to Natasha Schembri via email at natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au You can also email items for the next newsletter.



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