

## CareSearch eNews

August 2006

### **Building a Knowledge Network in palliative care**

The Department of Health and Ageing has funded the development of the Knowledge Network under the renewed budget measure – *Palliative Care in the Community (2006 – 2010)*. Flinders University through its Department of Palliative and Supportive Services has been contracted to undertake the development of the Knowledge Network.

Health practitioners and services are facing new challenges each day with respect to an ever expanding information base and the requirements for accountable and effective practice. Knowledge networks provide a vehicle to consolidate relevant evidence and information, discipline and service specific tools and resources, and facilities to encourage communication and learning. They also offer the capacity to link members of a community, both clinicians and consumers, in innovative ways to improve outcomes.

The Knowledge Network in palliative care will utilise the content and resources that are already found in the CareSearch website.

Professor David Currow from Flinders University will act as Chief Investigator. Professor Peter Martin will continue as Chairperson of the Knowledge Network Management Group.

Please contact us with ideas and suggestions, we'd love the feedback.

### **Transitional staffing arrangements**

With the responsibility for the development of the Knowledge Network, the CareSearch project team is reconfiguring. The appointment process for the Network Director is underway. Pending this appointment, transitional arrangements have been set in place with Jennifer Tieman (CareSearch Manager), Ruth Murton (Website Content Manager), Chris

Sanderson (CareSearch Research Fellow) and Desley Reid-Orr (Research Assistant) all continuing with the project till the new structure is established.

The project has moved offices within the same complex. Contact details for the project are:

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### **From the CareSearch website *Caring Communities Program***

The summaries and reports from the projects carried out as part of the Caring Communities program have been added to the CareSearch website. There are now over thirty project descriptions held on the website at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/Projects/Caringcommunitiesprogram/tabid/262/Default.aspx>

### ***Palliative Care Medicines Working Group***

A further poster has been added to the webpage on this project.

### ***Research Studies Register***

We are slowly adding studies to the Register as researchers from around Australia provide us with details on the research work that is currently in progress. It is interesting to see the diversity of work that is being undertaken. Studies details can be viewed at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Research/Researchstudiesregister/tabid/196/Default.aspx>

### ***Databases***

As at August 2006, items held in the literature databases are as follows:

Non-indexed journal articles 568

Conference abstracts 2257

Thesis 88

Grey Literature 129

### **Hot Picks**

Dr Odette Spruyt's Hot Pick deals with an important paper that was published in 2004 on the use of the term "palliative" in clinical oncology and the possible confusions relating to language and terms used in patient discussions. Her review can be found at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/Hotpicks/HotPickJune2006/tabid/404/Default.aspx>

### **From the Web**

#### **Priority-Driven Research Grants**

The first call for research under this round of the Palliative Care Research Program is for research grants. Total funding of up to \$1.8 million is available for grants of up to three years duration. A maximum of \$300,000 will be provided for individual grants.

A call for expressions of interest was gazetted and advertised on 12 July 2006. The closing date for Expressions of Interest is 5pm AEST on 6 September 2006. Details are available at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/granttype/strategic/palliative.htm>

#### **Program Overview 2006-2010**

An overview of the initiatives funded under the National Palliative Care Program for the period 2006-2010. This is now available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publicing.nsf/Content/palliativecare-pubs-overview-cnt.htm>

#### **Palliative Care Data Collection**

The Pilot Community-based Palliative Care Client Data Collection (2006) was run from the 5th of June till the 18th of June 2006 to trial a data set specification that will gather information about clients receiving community based palliative care. If implemented, this collection would help answer questions about who provides and receives palliative care, what types of services are provided and where palliative care is provided within the community.

This collection is being conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Details can be found at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/datadevelopment/pc/index.cfm>

### **Declaration of Venice**

At the 4th Research Forum of the European Association of Palliative Care, a special meeting of palliative care associations and organisations was convened to discuss a strategy to develop and promote a global palliative care research initiative, with a special focus on developing countries. As a result of the deliberations, this group adopted the Declaration of Venice to support the global development of palliative care research. Details on the Declaration of Venice can be found at <http://www.eapcnet.org/latestnews/VeniceDeclaration.html>

#### **EAPC Forum highlights**

Short reports of the daily highlights of the EAPC Research Forum held in May 2006 can be found at <http://www.eapcnet.org/congresses/Highlights2006.html>

#### **IAHPC prepares a list of essential palliative care medications**

In collaboration with several other organisations, the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) recently developed a list of medicines essential for palliative care in response to a request from the Cancer Control Program of the World Health Organization (WHO). Details on the task and process can be found at <http://www.hospicecare.com/announce.htm>

#### **Systematic review of the literature on complicated grief**

The report of the systematic review of complicated grief funded by the Palliative Care Section under the National Palliative Care Program is now available on the departmental website. The purpose of the review was to overview and analyse current bereavement interventions to inform future work in complicated grief. The report can be found at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publicing.nsf/Content/palliativecare-pubs-rsch-grief>

#### **Twenty years of the WHO analgesic ladder**

The World Health Organisation published "Cancer Pain Relief" in 1986. The approach became known as the WHO Analgesic ladder. The resource is reviewed in Volume 19 (1) of WHO Cancer Pain at [http://www.whocancerpain.wisc.edu/eng/19\\_1/19\\_1.html](http://www.whocancerpain.wisc.edu/eng/19_1/19_1.html)

### **NICS Resources**

The National Institute of Clinical Studies has developed two new resources:

- Identifying Barriers to Evidence Uptake, and
- Taking Action Locally: Eight steps to putting cancer guidelines into practice.

Both these resources can be found in the Knowledge Bank at

[http://www.nicsl.com.au/knowledge\\_reports.aspx?page=1](http://www.nicsl.com.au/knowledge_reports.aspx?page=1)

### **Conference dates 2006/2007**

9th Australian Palliative Care Conference will be held 28-31 August 2007 in Melbourne, Australia.

<http://www.pallcare.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=309>

Palliative Care Nurses Australia Inaugural Conference 8th – 9th September 2006  
Melbourne, Victoria

<http://www.pallcare.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=482>

EAPC 10<sup>th</sup> Congress will be held 7-9 June 2007 in Budapest, Hungary.

<http://www.eapcnet.org/budapest2007/welcome.html>

Please send any information on news, courses or events for inclusion in this newsletter to

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