

# KNOWLEDGE NETWORK IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Incorporating CareSearch



## E-NEWS DECEMBER 2006

### Knowledge Network Project

The Knowledge Network Project commenced on 1 July 2006. The aim of this Project is to establish the Australian Palliative Care Knowledge Network. The Knowledge Network will provide a one stop shop of information and practical resources that serves the needs of all providing palliative care or affected by palliative care. It will also enable and support interactions between individuals and networks of people so that they can develop, share and apply their knowledge to improve palliative care in Australia. The Knowledge Network is intended to provide an effective and efficient way of supporting the development of evidence and of disseminating information to support the translation of this evidence into practice and to prevent duplication of effort around Australia.

The CareSearch website, its content and functionalities, and the associated quality assurance and support processes will become a core component of the Knowledge Network and the CareSearch website is now being managed by the Knowledge Network Project Group. The intended audience for CareSearch was specialist palliative care clinicians, educators and researchers. The intended audience for the Knowledge Network is much broader. It includes all health providers (not only those specialising in palliative care), volunteers, patients and carers, and the general community.

The Knowledge Network Management Group has commenced meeting and a Consultation Workshop with key organisations and partners has been held. There will be further information on this project available on the CareSearch website in the near future.

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## ***What's new on CareSearch***

### **Guide to searching effectively**

Effective searching requires both knowledge and skills: knowing which databases exist and are likely to be most useful, and how to search them.

These CareSearch pages introduce users to some basic searching concepts, with some specific examples relevant to palliative care. They can be found at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Evidencebasedpractice/Guidetosearchingeffectively/tabid/354/Default.aspx>

### **Research Studies Register**

A number of investigators have added details of their studies to the Research Register. Over twenty current studies are now listed. The register provides a means of sharing information, developing linkages, preventing duplication and promoting awareness of current research activities. We would welcome study information from other researchers. Details can be sent to [Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au)

### **Web based learning modules**

There are an increasing number of online teaching resources in palliative care. Some are fully developed educational programs with training and self-evaluation activities, some are compendia of teaching materials or power point slides on relevant topics, and a few are discussion starters. We have introduced a section that links to various web based learning modules.

Modules included on this list have been appraised for the quality of their content, and their relevance for palliative care. If there are other resources that should be included in this list, please contact [caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au) and let us know!

### **Forums**

There are now five forums available on CareSearch. The Aged Care Forum is open. The others are accessible only by invitation. Groups interested in making use of the forum capacity should contact the CareSearch team at:

[caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au)

## ***Using the website***

There are many different aspects to the website. From our web statistics we know that posters presented at various conferences nationally and internationally are of interest to website visitors. As well as holding citation details of presentations made at Australian conferences relevant to palliative care, we have also included the actual posters and power points where we have permission from the authors. These presentations often detail recent research or practice and clinical processes. These resources can be found at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/Palliativepresentations/tabid/217/Default.aspx>

The PubMed searches are a quick and easy way for palliative clinicians and researchers to keep up with the literature. There are seventeen topic searches which are written by a medical librarian. Each topic has a number of search options such as free full text or systematic reviews only. Clicking on the search options launches the search into the PubMed database and retrieves articles that meet the topic's search terms. Clicking on the sensitive search retrieves a larger number of articles while the specific option is a narrower and more focussed search.

So if you look at anorexia, clicking on the sensitive option will retrieve 11230 items while choosing the specific search will narrow it to only 678 items. Clicking on the Systematic Review option will reduce it to 8 articles. Using free full text only will also reduce the number of items as well as providing immediate access to complete articles rather than citations only.

There are a diverse set of topics covering clinical issues such as cachexia and dyspnoea as well as more general issues such as spirituality and support for staff. All the PubMed searches can be found at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Evidencebasedpractice/Searchstrategies/PubMedsearches/tabid/132/Default.aspx>

We're always interested in ideas for searches that would be useful for those of you who are providing care.

## ***What's new in the palliative care community***

### **Aged Care Training Resources**

The Department of Health and Ageing funded Palliative Care Australia to undertake a project *Introducing the Guidelines to a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care* to raise awareness of the Guidelines. Various Training Resources have been produced as part of that project. These can be found at:

<http://www.agedcare.pallcare.org.au/>

### **NHMRC Palliative Care Research Program Round Three: Training Awards**

The purpose of Palliative Care Training Awards is to provide opportunities for Australian researchers to undertake research that is both of major importance in the field of Palliative Care and of benefit to Australian health.

Applications for postdoctoral fellowships and PhD scholarships are now open. Closing date is 6 December 2006. Full details are available at:

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/granttype/strategic/palliative\\_rnd3/index.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/granttype/strategic/palliative_rnd3/index.htm)

### **Community Attitudes towards Palliative Care 2006**

This report prepared for the Department of Health and Ageing is a follow-up from the 2003 Community Attitudes to Palliative Care Issues Report and provides data and information on what Australian people know and understand about palliative care. The full report can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/phd-palliative-comm-attitudes-06>

### ***Conference schedule in 2007***

For those of you planning conference presentations and/or participation in 2007, we have included details on the following conferences at the conferences page on CareSearch at

[March 7-10 2007 - 9th National Rural Health Conference.](#)

[March 15 & 16 2007, Improving the management of palliative care for older people, Stamford Sydney Airport, Sydney NSW Australia.](#)

[April 2-5 2007 - Australian Pain Society's Annual Scientific Meeting.](#)

[May 23-25 2007 - 2007 GP & PHC Research Conference, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Australia](#)

[June 7 2007 - International Conference on Evidence-Based Best Practice Guidelines.](#)

[August 28-31 2007 - Australian Palliative Care Conference 2007](#)

[September 25-28 2007 - 4th World Congress, World Institute of Pain](#)

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