

# KNOWLEDGE NETWORK IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Incorporating CareSearch



## E-NEWS JANUARY 2007

### What's new on CareSearch

#### National Palliative Care Program

The National Palliative Care Program has been funded by the Australian Government to improve access to, and quality of, palliative care services in Australia. The Program has been developed within the goals of the National Palliative Care Strategy agreed by in 2000.

There is a new section within the CareSearch website that provides an overview of the major projects being funded through this program. It also links to project websites and resources where possible.

You can find this section at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

### Using the website

#### Understanding Forums

Forums are like electronic bulletin boards. They let users share information by posting messages online.

Discussion forums on the web let palliative care practitioners and researchers share ideas and resources online. They don't need to be in the same city, state or even country.

Different types of forums help groups ensure that their specific needs for access are met. Forums can be:

- Open - can be viewed and accessed by any CareSearch user, and open to participation without registering. Many CareSearch users visited and contributed to the Aged Care forum that supported the roll out of the Aged Care in Palliative Care Guidelines.
- Closed - run by a user group who define the criteria for who can join the forum. People interested in joining this group need to apply to the group's moderator. These types of

forums may suit researchers or clinicians looking at a common interest.

- Private – Membership of these forums is by invitation only. This type of forum often comprises members working on a specific task or project.

You can find out more about forums in CareSearch at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/Understandingforums/tabid/407/Default.aspx>

Groups who are interested in using the forum capacity within CareSearch should contact the project team at [caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au)

### Knowledge Network Project

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006 a consultation workshop was held in Adelaide to bring together key potential contributors within the palliative care community to explore the role and directions of the Knowledge Network. The main focus of the workshop was:

1. Developing a shared understanding of the Networks purposes and content
2. Feedback of key elements of the proposed content and functions of the network
3. Identifying opportunities and barriers and facilitators to the development of the Knowledge Network

The day proved to be very successful and all the contributions were extremely valuable and appreciated. Powerpoints of the presentations can be found on the website at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/Knowledgenetwork/tabid/498/Default.aspx>

A bimonthly newsletter on the progress of the Knowledge Network project is now being produced. You can subscribe to the *Project News* by contacting the project team.

## Contact details:

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## What's new in the palliative care community

### The Cancer Council NSW Issues Paper There's No Place like Home

The Cancer Council NSW has released an Issues Paper "There's no place like home: challenges in palliative care" which outlines some of the practical support needs of carers of home-based palliative patients, current arrangements and issues of concern, as well as the current policy context in NSW.

They are seeking comments and suggestions regarding the Call for Action section that outlines directions for reform from stakeholders and service providers in palliative care. The deadline for comments has been extended to January 31, 2007. If you would like to comment on this Issues paper, please email [healthpolicy@nswcc.org.au](mailto:healthpolicy@nswcc.org.au).

### Chronic Heart Failure: Evidence based guidelines

The National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) have recently released updated guidelines for the diagnosis and management of chronic heart failure in Australia. Chronic heart failure is a common and debilitating condition affecting more than 300,000 Australians. The updated clinical guidelines, which were developed by a joint working party of the Heart Foundation and CSANZ, provide an evidence based framework for the diagnosis and management of chronic heart failure, emphasising the importance of multidisciplinary care programs. Full and summary versions of the guidelines can be downloaded from the [Heart Foundation website](#).

## NHMRC grant timetable

The NHMRC has released its timetable and procedures for research and training grants and awards for funding commencing in the financial year 2007-08. Details can be found at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/calendar/grant.htm>

## Cancer Council SA 2008 Funding

Cancer Council of SA has released general information about project grants for 1 or 2 years commencing in 2008. The closing date for applications is Friday 16 March 2007. Full details are available at [www.cancersa.org.au](http://www.cancersa.org.au)

## Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines

The Centre for Health Research and Psycho-Oncology at the University of Newcastle is developing and disseminating consensus-based guidelines and associated tools for the appropriate referral of cancer patients to palliative care services.

The research team has produced [Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines](#) to provide guidance to those caring for people with a life-limiting illness to ensure appropriate specialist care is offered.

## Australian Government and Flinders University Postgraduate Scholarships

Scholarships are being offered for remission of fees for students studying the post-graduate topic Palliative Care for Indigenous Population –Health, Culture and Society and for studies equivalent to a Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care in Aged Care.

People of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander background are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application forms are available from the Department of Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University by phone on (08) 8275 1603 or by email at [pallcare@flinders.edu.au](mailto:pallcare@flinders.edu.au). Closing date is 21 January 2007.

## Conference abstracts for Palliative Care Conference

The deadline for submission of conference abstracts has been extended till 23 January 2007. Details on the conference and the submission form can be found at:

<http://www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007/>

## Special call for research applications into complementary and alternative medicine

This call provides an opportunity for Australian researchers to submit proposals for excellent and innovative research that will generate evidence and increase knowledge in the area of Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Total funding of up to \$5 million is available for this initiative. The applications for this call will close 30 March 2007. Details are available at:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/granttype/strategic/cam.htm>

## Review of New Zealand's Care Plus

Care Plus was rolled out nationally on 1 July 2004 in New Zealand as a new primary health care initiative targeting people with high health needs due to chronic conditions, acute medical or mental health needs, or terminal illness. An independent review of the scheme has recently been completed. Although most of the patients surveyed felt their care had improved under Care Plus, in its current form, Care Plus may not be

well suited to patients who need intensive interventions requiring multiple health care contacts over a short period of time such as those with mental health needs and the terminally ill. Full details of the review can be found at:

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/by+unid/81336E1FDF22C8B1CC257236000B3512?Open>

## Education and training opportunities

A number of education and training opportunities have been listed in the Short Courses page on the website at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Educationtraining/Shortcourses/tabid/213/Default.aspx>

If you are interested in promoting your courses through the website please send details to the project team.

## Conference schedule in 2007

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

[March 2 2007 – Annual Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium – Research, Culture, Evolving concepts – Lormier Dods Lecture Theatre, The Children's Hospital at Westmead](#)

[March 6 & 7 2007 - St Andrew's Symposium - Strengthening Family Resilience - Adelaide Convention Centre](#)

[March 15-17 2007 - Palliative Medicine 2007 - The 11th Annual International Symposium Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers, Florida. Call for abstracts deadline January 12 2007](#)

[September 7-9 2007 - Children's Hospice International's 18th World Congress Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore](#)

[September 17-19 2007 - 9th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology and Psychosocial Academy at the South Kensington Campus of the Imperial College in London, UK](#)

[September 27 – 29 2007 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Hospice Conference "Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care" The Philippines Plaza Hotel Manila](#)

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