

CARESEARCH E – NEWS JULY 2007

What's new on the website

KN Project pages

We have provided more detailed information on the development of the Knowledge Network in palliative care project. You can find out more at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/KnowledgeNetworkProject/tabid/688/Default.aspx>

Acknowledgements 2007

There are a large number of people who contribute their time and skills to the CareSearch website and the Knowledge Network Project. Their contribution improves the quality, rigour and depth of the material available. We wanted to publicly acknowledge the contribution that is made in many different areas by many different people – academics, clinicians and consumers. This is available at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Home/Acknowledgements/tabid/699/Default.aspx>

Have you heard?

This is a new page that will keep people in touch with aspects relating to the development of the website and the development of the Knowledge Network. You can see it at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Home/Haveyouheard/tabid/690/Default.aspx>

Website Usage

Visitor statistics

In June a record number of 35,693 visits were made to CareSearch. This doubled the number of visits made in May 2007. There has been a steady growth in visits since January but this was a particularly noteworthy leap in numbers.

People's comments on the website

We were delighted to see that CareSearch was included as the resource of the month for June in the library of the Royal Society of Medicine. The Royal Society of Medicine is one of the UK's oldest and most prestigious medical institutions. We were even more delighted when we realised that the July resource of the month was the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine. This is significant recognition of the quality of the CareSearch website.

One user from Tasmania sent in the following comment:

Love the additions to the site – I always struggled to find what I wanted before – especially when I wasn't quite sure what it was I was looking for, if that makes sense...

The new resources are great, easy to use and relevant.

Another user, a clinician working in breast cancer wrote:

...just thought I'd write and tell you the site and info you sent my way is fantastic. I will be talking to GP's in a couple of weeks and will definitely pass all this on, great work!!

Inviting you to participate

Last chance to comment on GP pages

We would like all of our users to take the opportunity to complete the survey on the new GP pages in CareSearch. By completing the survey you can help us to find ways to make the pages better. To view the GP pages or to take the survey, go to:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Careproviders/GPs/tabid/487/Default.aspx>

Evaluators and user testers

Developing content and resources for the CareSearch website uses the skills and views of many different people. Providing feedback, using your skills in evaluating material or acting as a user-tester as pages are developed can help make stronger and more useful materials. If you are interested in helping develop the CareSearch website, please contact the project team at caresearch@flinders.edu.au or phone us on (08) 8275 2817.

What's new in the palliative care community

Communicating at the end of life guidelines

New guidelines for "end of life" conversations were released in June in a special supplement of the MJA. They provide advice on how healthcare workers can tailor their conversations about death to the needs of the individual and their family. The guidelines are available at:

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_12_180607/cla11246_fm.html

Clinical Evidence: Supportive and Palliative Care

BMJ has introduced a new Supportive and Palliative Care section in BMJ Clinical Evidence. This systematically reviews the evidence base behind these two distinct, but complementary, medical specialties. This is a subscription resource. The new section can be found at BMJ Clinical Evidence at <http://www.clinicalevidence.com/ceweb/conditions/spc/spc.jsp>

National Rural Palliative Care Program resources

The Department of Health and Ageing have supported the development of this resource kit through the Rural Palliative Care Program (RPCP). The RPCP aims to support rural divisions of general practice to develop and implement collaborative models of care that will significantly improve rural community access to timely, quality and coordinated palliative care. You can find them at <http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=24251&filter=i&leca=75&did=63403380>

Mapcare – Resource for the acute care sector in metropolitan Adelaide.

As part of the Local Palliative Care Grants a new printed and online resource for the acute care sector in metropolitan Adelaide was developed. You can access it at www.mapcare.org.au

European Pain in Cancer survey

A major survey involving over 4,000 cancer patients in 12 countries throughout Europe investigated the impact and treatment of pain in cancer. The survey showed that one in two (57 percent) cancer patients are enduring moderate to severe levels of pain. Details on the study can be found at http://www.paineurope.com/index.php?q=en/book_page/epic_survey

Respecting Patient Choices Literature review

The Health Issues Centre has released the literature review it completed for the Respecting Patient Choices project. You can access the report at:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/docs/rpcstage2litreview.pdf>

Grants and Awards

2008 NICS Fellowships

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in partnership with key health organisations, is inviting applications for the 2008 NICS Fellowship Awards. There are various closing dates. Details on these awards can be found at:

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics/asp/index.asp?page=news/news_article&cid=&id=643

Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice

The Commonwealth Fund is pleased to invite applications from Australia for the 2008-09 Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice. Applications from Australia, New Zealand, and the U.K. are due September 4, 2007. Details on the Fellowships can be found at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/fellowships/fellowships_list.htm?attrib_id=9157

Conferences

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia 34th Annual Scientific Meeting 14-16 November 2007
Adelaide Convention Centre

9th Australian Conference on Quality of Life 22 November 2007. Pre conference workshop on 21 November *Contemporary Quality of Life Measurement*, Deakin University Melbourne

Australian General Practice Network Forum 2007 Hobart 15-18 November 2007 Conference includes a stream on 15th November for Aged and Palliative Care *Caring Across the lifespan*

Palliative Care Nurses Australia, 2nd Biennial Conference 12-13 September 2008 Hilton Hotel, Adelaide

13th Annual Australian Health Outcomes Conference *Facilitating Knowledge Exchange & Transfer for a Dynamic Future* 30 April – 1 May 2008 Canberra

American Psychological Oncology Society 5th Annual Conference *Integrating Psychosocial Services in Quality Cancer Care* 28 Feb – 2 March 2008, Orange County, California

Details on these and many other palliative care conferences can be found in the Conferences page in CareSearch at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Education/Conferences/tabid/105/Default.aspx>

From the Community

COSA Palliative Care Programme

During the 2007 Clinical Oncological Society of Australia ASM – Dr Katy Clark and Dr Meera Agar are organising a full day programme dedicated to Palliative Care. Please circulate this information to all palliative care staff or those doing research in a palliative care or supportive care field in the areas you work as COSA is a multidisciplinary forum. Abstracts submission close on the 20th of August for free papers.

The details are as follows: COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2007 - Adelaide from 14 -16 November 2007. To submit an abstract go to www.dconferences.com.au/cosa

Higher Degree Research Forum

I am trying to create a forum on CareSearch to link up all higher degree students who are doing research higher degrees in a palliative care related field. This hopefully will have the role of providing peer support and encouragement, and also links to future collaborations. We would also like to be in touch with recently completed students.

If you would like to participate in such a group please contact me:

Dr Meera Agar
Braeside Hospital
Locked bag 82
Wetherill Park, NSW 2164
Phone: + 61-2-9616 8654
email: Meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

If you would like to provide feedback on this newsletter or make a contribution to the next edition, please contact Natasha.Schembri@flinders.edu.au