

## CareSearch eNews

### June/July 2004

#### ***From the Website***

Some users have contacted us regarding the literature databases and what is included in the four databases. The literature databases are a repository of Australia's knowledge base in palliative care from 1980.

There are four separate databases that hold the results of four separate projects to identify and collate material to increase the comprehensiveness of palliative care information. The projects leading to the databases can be described as follows:

Journal articles: This involved the comparison of the indexes of articles for 12 palliative care journals against the electronic bibliographic indexes of Ovid Medline, CINAHL, Embase and PsycINFO. Articles that were not found on these four bibliographic indexes were included on the CareSearch website. Where permissions were granted, the abstract was also included.

Conference abstracts: Organisers for major palliative and associated conferences held since 1980 have been approached for conference proceedings and for permission to post abstracts on the website. The proceedings were reviewed and relevant abstracts identified. These were then included on the website. As time and resources allow conference abstracts are being evaluated against design and research criteria.

Theses and treatises: Australian universities were asked to identify theses and treatises completed within their institution dealing with palliative care. Details of these academic investigations have been included.

Grey Literature: State and National departments responsible for palliative care and major palliative organisations were asked to provide reports and documents pertaining to palliative care. Details of these reports were included on the website.

Users can search these databases individually or collectively by author or keyword. These databases provide access to literature that would otherwise be extremely difficult to find.

#### ***Hot Picks***

This month's Hot Pick article deals with the important issue of patient self management with complementary therapies. Professor Paddy Phillips is the reviewer. He is Professor and Head, Department of Medicine at Flinders University.

The review can be found in the Resources section of the CareSearch website or the following link will take you directly to the review: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/minigen/default.asp?contentID=81>

### **Research Platform**

Work on refinements to the survey tool is nearing completion. When the modified platform is introduced to the website, researchers will have access to a tool to design surveys and to enable on-line data entry. This will support multi-site collaborative research. It will also be particularly useful for conducting email or internet surveys.

### **Recent releases**

A number of reports have recently been published that may be of interest to those involved in palliative care.

The National Consensus Project in America has prepared and made available guidelines for quality palliative care. The guidelines can be seen at:

<http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org/>

The Palliative Care Association has just published their report *The hardest thing we have ever done: The social impact of caring for terminally ill people in Australia, 2004*. It can be found at:

<http://www.pallcare.org.au/publications/index.html>

Six publications dealing with Improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer were posted on the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Internet site. They can be found at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=110005>

The Department of Health and Ageing has just released a document entitled *Ethical research in palliative care: A guide through the Human Research Ethics Committee process*. This should be available on-line in the near future.

### **Newsletter changes**

From this edition CareSearch eNews will be a combined newsletter with the International Institute of Palliative and Supportive Studies (IIPSS). We have attached the IIPSS newsletter. This provides readers with access to indexes of the latest editions of four palliative care journals.

If you are offering educational programs in palliative care or hosting conferences on palliative care and wish them to be included in this newsletter, please forward details to

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