

## CareSearch eNews

March 2005

### From the Website

The first three months of 2005 have been very busy. Our website officer, Harshini Carey left after three years. She made an invaluable contribution to the development of the website and we wish her well in her new position.

There are some Australian journals relevant to palliative care that are not currently indexed in the electronic bibliographic systems. This means that this information is effectively lost for the purposes of searching for pertinent local literature.

The journal *Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement* has been published by the Centre for Grief Education since 1998. It looks at both academic and applied aspects of grief and bereavement. The journal however is not indexed electronically.

Following discussion with the editors of *Grief Matters*, CareSearch will be including citations and abstracts from the journal in the literature database. The 2004 summer edition of *Grief Matters* took Palliative Care as its central theme and included the following articles:

- Payne S & Field D Undertaking bereavement research: Sensitivities and sensibilities
- Kristjanson L & Lobb E Loss, grief and bereavement in palliative care: Research directions
- Currow D Grief and loss: The needs of the whole population

These three abstracts and many others from the journal which add to the knowledge base for palliative care are now held in the Caresearch literature database.

The number of items held in the literature databases continues to grow with the inclusion of new conference abstracts and grey literature.

The database currently houses over 2 600 items in the following categories:

Conference abstracts:	1 989
Journal articles	472
Theses	78
Grey literature	100

### Evaluating conference abstracts

As we add items to the conference abstract section of CareSearch's literature database we need help in evaluating these abstracts.

If you are a clinician or researcher and are interested in helping, please contact the CareSearch project team. Evaluations are done on-line and would only take 1-2 hours monthly. Your contribution would help build the knowledge base for palliative care in Australia.

### About the Research Platform

The research platform contained within the CareSearch website enables researchers and managers to create surveys, questionnaires and other data collection forms on-line using a special program. Participants can then be emailed a link to the survey that the participant can complete on-line. Alternately the researcher can use hardcopies and enter the data later themselves.

The research platform contains a number of different sections to help create surveys and forms:

Surveys: This section enables the development of questionnaires, survey and other data collection forms. In this section you also specify who can complete these forms (eg patients or study participants, project officers only)

Reports: This section offers a basic analysis tool and provides summary reports of the data using pie charts, tables, percentages etc. It also enables the raw data to be exported for further analysis if required.

Libraries: Standard questions or assessment tools can be stored in the Libraries section.

These tools or questions can then be imported into new surveys or forms.

**Invitations:** This section enables the researcher or manager to specify a group they would like to participate in a survey. These individuals are then contacted by email. The email will automatically link the recipient to the survey and load the individual responses into the database.

**Styles:** This provides researchers with the capacity to use formatting options to individualise their forms and surveys.

Access to the research platform is by log-in only. However, interested individuals can be granted access to some demonstration surveys to see how the system works.

Those undertaking research in palliative care in Australia are able to use this system without charge.

If you feel that the research platform may be useful for your research study or quality assurance activity, please contact [Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au)

### **Helpful Hints for Searching the Literature Databases**

When you are using the literature database you can refine the search by using the section "Fields to search".

If you do not tick a specific box, the search will cover all the options available or you can select the 'All' box to cover all options. You can limit your search to searching within the Title, Author, Abstract or Keyword list; or a combination of these. For example, if you know the author name you are searching for, then tick 'Author', if you are interested in a particular topic, then a search within the abstract, keywords or title fields would be more appropriate. Please note that a keyword search can only be performed if the conference abstracts are selected. We have not included journal article keywords in our database.

#### **Publication Year**

You can specify a year or range of years for your search by manually typing in the desired four digit year/s in the appropriate boxes. If you do not choose a year all the years covered in the database will be searched. It will allow you to enter years before the database has information, so please check years.

If you would like a copy of the full list of Helpful Hints for Searching the Literature Database, email [Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au)

### **From the Web**

PCA has recently released its report A guide to Palliative Care service Development: A population based approach. It can be found at <http://www.pallcare.org.au/publications/PCA%20Service%20Provisions.pdf>

The Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN) provides a central point of access to quality Internet-based alcohol and drug information provided by prominent organisations in Australia and Internationally. You can find this site at [www.adin.com.au](http://www.adin.com.au)

The Caring Communities Program is an initiative by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing designed to improve the quality of palliative care in the community by assisting families, carers and health service providers to give better support to people who are dying. Thirty-seven projects were funded in 2003. Details on the various projects and the progress of the whole program can be found on the website of the Centre for Health Service Development at [http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/chsd/caring\\_communities.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/chsd/caring_communities.html)

The Liverpool Care Pathway for the dying patient (LCP) has been developed to transfer the hospice model of care into other care settings. The website can be found at <http://www.lcp-mariecurie.org.uk/default.asp>

### **Conference Information**

The International Institute of Palliative and Supportive Studies will be holding its second annual South Australian Palliative Care Update on 30 September 2005. The Institute has put out a call for abstracts and posters. Abstracts are invited for posters, orals or workshops. Abstracts should to current palliative projects or innovations in palliative practice. Abstracts will need to be submitted by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April to the International Institute of Palliative and Supportive Studies at [ihs@flinders.edu.au](mailto:ihs@flinders.edu.au) For full details on the conference and the process for abstract submission, contact Michael on (08) 8275 1672 or email [ihs@flinders.edu.au](mailto:ihs@flinders.edu.au)

Health Outcomes 2005 will be held in Canberra on 17 and 18 August 2005. Details on the conference can be found at <http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/ahoc/>

The 2005 Alzheimer's Australia National Conference will be held in Sydney from 11- 13 May. Details can be found at <http://www.alzheimersconference2005.com/>

CPCRE will host their 4th Annual Research Conference in Palliative Care in Brisbane on Friday 3 June 2005. For further details visit the website at <http://www.cpcrc.com/>

### **Items for the eNews**

Please send us information on local or national training and education topics so that we can share this information with others in the palliative community.

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# Repatriation General Hospital

## IIPSS NEWSLETTER

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