

#### From the CareSearch website

##### ***Caring Communities Program***

The reports of the individual projects undertaken as part of the Caring Communities Program can now be found on CareSearch. Thirty seven projects were allocated funds under this program. Nineteen groups have completed their projects. Each group has provided an overview and an executive summary. Many groups have provided other resources or links to project materials.

The projects can be searched by state/territory or by study topic. A description of the Caring Communities Program and the individual projects can be found at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/Projects/Caringcommunitiesprogram/tabid/262/Default.aspx>

##### **Forums**

We have extended the functionality of the forums to enable registered members forums and by invitation only forums. This is in addition to the open, public forum capacity. Both new types of forums will require registration. This type of restricted forums may be of particular interest to research groups or discipline groups who need a mechanism that enables communication and exchange. Members can register to be alerted by email when new listings are made to the forum. Groups interested in using this functionality should contact the CareSearch Project Team. For groups working in palliative care this service is available free of charge.

##### **Databases**

As at March 2006, items held in the literature databases are as follows:

Non-indexed journal articles	549
Conference abstracts	2125
Thesis	79
Grey Literature	110

##### **Hot Picks**

Professor Linda Kristjanson's March Hot Pick looks at the important issue of depression in patients with advanced illness. The study she reviews is by Gruenir, Smith et al (2005) and deals with some of the gaps in the knowledge base relating to depression, particularly with regard to sub-populations such as cognitively impaired and non-malignant groups.

The March Hot Pick can be found at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/Hotpicks/HotPickMarch2006/tabid/343/Default.aspx>

##### **Tools and templates**

Everyone is aware of how much effort goes into developing forms, documents and protocols. Many well-established services have developed valuable materials which are being routinely used and which work well – for instance:

- information brochures, for patients, carers, GPs or others
- policies and operating procedures
- triage and referral forms
- admission documentation
- symptom assessment tools
- forms for documenting medications (including those that can be carried by patients).

We have written to palliative care services throughout Australia asking if they have materials that they have produced and that they are willing to share with the national palliative care community. These tools, templates, forms and other materials will then be held on CareSearch to help other groups. If you have materials that you think could be useful, please make them available for this project by contacting

[Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au)

### **Research Directory**

We are currently finalising a form to collect information on current palliative care research projects in Australia. This would provide a searchable register of research projects. It would promote awareness among the palliative care community of current research, assist in building capacity and relationships between researchers and prevent duplication of activities.

If you would like to register your research project please contact

[Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au) .

Please note that to register the project should have been submitted for, or have received, ethics approval.

### **Staff changes**

Ruth Murton has rejoined us as the Project Administrative Officer replacing Stella Nall who is on maternity leave. Ruth had previously worked on the development of the Knowledge Network Business plan. Stella had a baby girl in February. Both mother and baby are doing well.

We have also had several part-time casuals join the team. Claire Mulvihill is undertaking some beta testing of the evaluation system and of the thesaurus. She is also undertaking some searches for validated palliative care assessment tools for inclusion in patient care pages. Mandi Kuss is providing some part-time administrative support to the project while Ruth looks at developing new functions in the website. Jane Silbereisen is undertaking some analysis of caregiver, patient and consumer needs as part of the content development for the non-professional portal. Desley Reid-Orr is providing librarian support for searches relating to caregiver and patient needs, knowledge translation and communication/editorial styles.

### **Building for the Knowledge Network**

We are carrying out some additional investigations for the Knowledge Network. This work focuses on expanding the CareSearch website to a professional portal, mapping of content and functions for the non-professional portal.

The following specific tasks will be completed in the next three months:

- Community consultations regarding content and presentation of the non-professional portal
- Mapping of the content for an expanded CareSearch into the professional portal
- Development of exemplar pages for non-specialist groups – specifically, GPs, OTs and volunteer managers.
- Review and assessment of available online education and training modules in palliative care
- Mapping of non – professional site content and relationship to existing content and resource
- Scoping and development of sample page(s) of the non-professional portal

A first community consultation has been planned for 20<sup>th</sup> March in Darwin. Others are planned for Victoria, Canberra and Sydney in the next 4 weeks.

We would be keen to hear from groups or individuals regarding what they would like to see on CareSearch for patients, caregivers, volunteers, and families and friends. Please ring on (08) 8275 1732 or email [Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au)

### **From the Web**

Libraries Australia is a service from the National Library of Australia which allows you to search for Australian material. The service is available at

<http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/apps/kss>

The Help the Hospices website (UK) has released a new section for *Young Carers* in their Caring for Carers pack. This pack is available online at

<http://www.timetocare.org.uk/pack/index.asp>

The National Institute of Clinical Studies has introduced a new section on their website providing a guide to online searching. The new section is called "Where's the evidence?" and includes online tools, links to other evidence sites and an online tutorial. "Where's the evidence?" can be accessed at <http://wheretheevidence.nicsl.com.au/home.aspx>

### **News and events**

Dates have been confirmed for National Palliative Care Awareness Week 2006. This week will be held from Sunday 21 May to Saturday 27 May 2006. Contact state palliative care offices for activities. PCA has also established a webpage on the week at <http://www.pallcare.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=480>

### **Conference dates 2006**

Society for Integrative Oncology Conference  
Boston Massachusetts 9 – 11 November 2006

Inaugural Australian Lung Cancer Conference  
2006: *Multidisciplinary Care* Cairns, 30 June –  
2 July 2006

3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference *Ageing, Disability &  
Spirituality: Addressing the challenge of  
disability in later life* Canberra, 26 – 29<sup>th</sup>  
September 2006

### **Education/training items**

As you will see from the Short course and conference webpage, there are many opportunities to maintain and develop skills. We are very happy to have education and training providers forward their material to us for posting on the website. We do review the details sent in to make sure they are relevant to our audience. So, please send us details on any education and training activities that you have organised for 2006. This is free promotion for your activity and helps the community stay in touch. Email items to: [Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au)

The CareSearch website and the Evidence Based project are supported by a grant from the Department of Health and Ageing.