

CARESEARCH E-NEWS MAY 2007

Responses to GP and Patient/Carer pages

We've had very good responses to the new materials in the CareSearch website. Many organisations and groups have helped us by disseminating information through their newsletters and organisations. GP organisations and divisions have included us as links. We've had comments from international groups about the website as well as from local doctors, project officers and aged care workers. Even Aunt Doherty from the Ipswich & West Moreton Division of General Practice gave us a plug.

The visitation rates also show an increase in site usage. In April there was a record visitation of 16,834 distinct visits. There were 2,961 webpages viewed a total of 65,738 times and there were 2,717 downloadable file requests.

Go to <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Careproviders/GPs/tabid/487/Default.aspx> to see the GP pages or you can find the Patient Carer section at: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Patientscarers/tabid/493/Default.aspx>.

GP survey

Now that the GP pages are out in the community, we are trying to find out how useful they are and whether there are other information or resource needs for GPs. We have developed a very short survey (less than 5 minutes) that all users, and GPs especially, are invited to complete. You can find this survey on the CareSearch website on the homepage or at the GP home page or you can take it now at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/CareSearchSurvey/Surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?surveyid=1169> .

(The survey has been approved by the Ethics Committee at Flinders University. It is confidential, online survey - estimated completion time is 5 minutes. Please note that the internet is not a totally secure medium.)

If you are interested in contributing in more detail to the development of the CareSearch web-pages for General Practitioners, we would like to invite you to participate in a focus group. Two focus groups of interested general practitioners will be held in June 2007, one in Adelaide and one in Sydney. If you are interested in participating in the focus group please send an email to the following address: maree.tumbus@rgh.sa.gov.au

From the website

There is a series of new resources on the CareSearch website that may be useful to organisations and individuals. They are:

ComPAC open forum: Online discussion board on the development of the guidelines for palliative aged care in the community. You can help by writing about your experiences as a practitioner, care provider or patient or carer, by recommending literature or research that could help in developing guidelines, or by commenting on the guidelines as they are developed. You can access the forum at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/ComPAC/ComPACCommunityForum/tabid/668/Default.aspx>

PCT page with summary of findings: The main results of the Palliative Care Trial can now be found in the National Palliative Care program pages. The Palliative Care Trial was the largest randomised controlled trial in the world exploring palliative care service provision where participants were individually consented. It is one of a handful of studies that have rigorously explored case conferencing.

Indigenous Resources: These pages provide further information on resources and literature about palliative care for Indigenous Australians. Much of this material can be accessed as web resources. There is also information on State and National organisations involved in Aboriginal health. These resources can be found at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Patientscarers/Usefulinformation/IndigenousResources/tabid/673/Default.aspx>

KN community forum: This is an online discussion board that encourages members of the palliative care community to help in the development of the Knowledge Network in palliative care. We are keen to find out what people would like to see in the Knowledge Network, what type of information and resources they find helpful and useful in their practice, and how they would like to see and use the resources (e.g. downloadable pages, audio materials, online learning modules etc.) Make a comment at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/Knowledgenetwork/KnowledgeNetworkForum/tabid/671/Default.aspx>

What's new in the palliative care community

National Knowledge Week on Pain

The National Library for Palliative and Supportive Care in the UK has organised a National Knowledge Week on Pain to highlight the best current evidence on this topic in a concise, easy to read format. Details can be found at:

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/palliative/Page.aspx?pagename=PAIN>

Make a difference: National Community Education Initiative

The National Community Education Initiative begins on 20 May 2007 with the start of National Palliative Care Week and a series of national, state and territory launch events. The initiative will conclude on World Palliative Care Day on 6 October 2007. Full details of the initiative can be found at the Palliative Care Australia website at:

<http://www.pallcare.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=1274>.

Palliative Care Research Development Grants

The purpose of the Palliative Care Research Development Grants is to provide opportunities for emerging investigators and research teams to build capacity and foster the potential to develop significant careers in palliative care research. The deadline for applications is 17.00 AEST on 12 June 2007. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Further details can be found at:

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/granttype/strategic/palliative_rnd3/index.htm#b

Who Cares? - the ethics of caring in a good society: a national conversation

This is a new project of St James Ethics Centre in partnership with Carers NSW and Macquarie Bank Foundation. You can find out more about this project at:

<http://www.carersnsw.asn.au/storage/pdfs/policy/WhoCaresProj.pdf>

NHS Bereavement Guide

The NHS has released a package of resources to help healthcare organisations improve the quality and uptake of health services for lesbian, gay and bisexual and transgender people. The resources include a bereavement guide to assist bereaved transgender people or friends, or the family of a transgender person who has died. You can find the guide at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_074259

Conferences

July 20 2007 Annual Leura Palliative Care Conference 'Venturing Forward' Blue Mountains in NSW. For conference details contact: Megan Luhr (02) 47344800

March 26-March 30 2008 World Congress of Health Professions Perth Convention Exhibition Centre Western Australia. All details are available on the conferences page in CareSearch.

New Promotional materials are available

We have produced a number of information sheets and bookmarks about what's available on CareSearch. The following sheets are currently available:

GP Fact Sheet – CareSearch aims to support GPs in one of their most significant roles

GP Bookmark

Patient-Carers Fact Sheet - Online palliative care resources for patients, carers and friends

Patient-Carers Bookmark

Nurses Fact Sheet - What CareSearch can offer Nurses

We are happy to send information to groups for meetings and for their community. Please contact us if you would like us to forward some resources. There are also materials that will be held on the website including some powerpoints and downloadable promotional sheets for printing.

Providing us with feedback

We would welcome your comments and thoughts on any of the new materials in CareSearch and the changes to the layout of the site and the pages. Send us an email to caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au or ring the project team at 08 8275 2816.

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