

CareSearch eNews September 2005

Welcome to the upgraded website

On Wednesday 7 September, the modified website was uploaded. As well as transferring the existing materials and literature databases into the new content framework, we have taken the opportunity to include new content, new functions and new resources. We have made some minor changes to the overall structure to enable us to grow the content on the site over time. We now have seven major areas in the website:

Literature databases: Includes the four sources of "missing" palliative literature and an indexing function for Australian journals relevant to palliative care that are not currently indexed on any of the four major electronic bibliographic databases (Medline, CINAHL, Embase and PsycINFO).

Evidence Based Practice: Includes the PubMed searches and also a new page providing links to EBM and EBPH resources.

Research: As in the previous website

Grants information: New section providing details on granting agencies and tender opportunities.

Patient Care: Replaces Service Models and Clinical Practice with a two broad areas dealing with Clinical Issues and with Service Issues.

Education and training: New section summarizing education and training opportunities including formal qualifications, short courses and conferences.

Resources: Including existing resources such as Hot Picks, eNews, Weblinks, and Presentations. We have also added a Projects section to provide information on various projects in palliative care in Australia and a Forums section. Forums provide the opportunity for members of the palliative

community to post information or comments on matters of common interest. At the moment we have an active Aged Care Forum to support the APRAC Guidelines rollout. So if you haven't been to the site in a while, it might be worth dropping in to see what has changed.

From the website

As well as the changes described above, there are six new topics in the PubMed searches dealing with constipation, delirium/confusion, depression, palliative sedation, spirituality and support for staff. To try one of the searches go to [Search Strategies \(PubMed\)](#)

There is a new page providing links and resources for Aged Care facilities and a new projects page describing the work of the Palliative Medications Working Group.

Hot Picks

Two articles have been reviewed since the last newsletter. Dr Odette Spruyt chose an article from the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management dealing with screening items for delirium and cognitive impairment for patients nearing the end of life.

Professor Patsy Yates' choice of article was from the same journal. Her review highlights an Australian study looking at initiating discussions about prognosis and end of life issues with terminally ill patients. Both of these Hot Picks can be found in the Resources section of the CareSearch website.

From the Web

A new website for the Medical Psychology Research Unit enables access to some prompt lists for use in palliative care and oncology. They can be seen at <http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/mpru>

World Hospice Day will be held on 8th October 2005. World Hospice and Palliative

Care Day is a new unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world. Details on the day can be found at the website on <http://www.worldday.org/>

News and events

PNCA has been launched! A new national nursing organisation has been established with the support of Palliative Care Australia. The new formed association is to be known as Palliative Care Nurses Australia Incorporated (PCNA). It will be a voice for palliative care nursing. For more details or for an application form, go to www.pallcare.org.au

Indigenous Palliative Care topic scholarships: The Australian Government is offering scholarships in 2006 for remission of the course fee for students studying the postgraduate topic *Palliative Care for Indigenous Population – Health, Culture and Society* through Flinders University or Charles Darwin University. For more details, email pallcare@flinders.edu.au or bev.turnbull@cdu.edu.au

The rollout of the one day Residential Aged Care Palliative Approach Network workshops has begun. These workshops are part of the implementation of the APRAC guidelines for palliative care in residential aged care facilities. Information on this project and on the timetable for workshops can be found at www.pallcare.org.au

The second funding round of the Australian Government's local palliative Care grants program has begun. This round offers funding for projects to address the emotional and spiritual needs of patients receiving palliative care and their families. Applications close Friday 28 October. For further details email localpallcare@health.gov.au or visit www.health.gov.au/tenders

A new version of Therapeutics Guidelines: Palliative Care is being released in October. For more details visit www.tg.com.au

The Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education has released Competency Standards for Specialist Palliative Care Nursing Practice. These can be seen on their website at www.cpcrc.com

Flinders University will launch a new Master of Palliative Care in Aged Care in 2006. The new Master's will offer a 54 unit flexible program, allowing students to choose from 3 streams which will comprise of:

Stream A: Master's by Coursework (54 units of Coursework)

Stream B: Master's by Coursework and Research Project (36 units of Coursework + an 18 unit Research Project)

Stream C: Master's by Research (18 units of Coursework + 36 units of Research).

The Master of Palliative Care has also been restructured to offer the same 3 Streams as the Master of Palliative Care in Aged Care. For further information

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/postgrad/> or email pallcare@flinders.edu.au

NHMRC will become a fully independent statutory agency within the Department of Health and Ageing from the beginning of 2006. Further details can be found at <http://www7.health.gov.au/nhmrc/>

Conference dates 2006

Advance notice for next year's diary:
4th Research Forum European Association of Palliative Care "Collaborate to catalyse research" Palazzo del Casino, Venezia, Italy, 25-27 May 2006

5th Annual Kaleidoscope Conference "Benchmarks and Milestones: Striving for Excellence in Palliative Care" 31 May – 1 June 2006, Dublin, Ireland

ANZSPM Convention 4-6 October 2006
Harbourview Function Centre, Newcastle

The 17th Hospice New Zealand Palliative Care and Pain Society Conference Dunedin, New Zealand October 26-28, 2006

Education/training items

A new section on the website for education, training and short courses has been added to the website. Please send us details on any education and training activities that you have organised for October to December 2005. This is free promotion for your activity and helps with maintaining and developing the palliative care workforce. Email items to: Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au

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