

## CARESEARCH FACT SHEET FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

CareSearch is an Australian online resource that promotes the evidence-based practice of palliative care, and provides good quality, practical, up-to-date information and resources.

Palliative care within Australia is provided by many different health professionals. There are many issues that arise when dealing with a life limiting illness and CareSearch can help with information and resources to support practice.

Within the website information can be found on:

- *What is Palliative Care?* The role of palliative care within Australia is described. The National Palliative Care Program provides an overview of the Australian Government's national initiatives in this area since 2000.
- *Professional Groups Pages:* Many different disciplines and professional groups contribute to palliative care individually and as part of multidisciplinary care teams. These pages provide access to resources and literature relevant to the practice of palliative care for different individual professional groups. They have been developed either in association with professional bodies or by individual practitioners from that area
- *Professional Connect* recognises that throughout Australia there are groups and teams contributing to palliative care practice and development. CareSearch can support these Communities of Practice (CoPs) by facilitating virtual engagement. This includes an area on the website just for the group (registered members), with intranet home page, shared calendar, forum, the capacity for a newsletter and a safe place to store documents.
- *Patients and Families:* There are also pages written especially for consumers, that is the patients, their carers, family, friends and the wider community. Information can be found on 'about palliative care', 'living with illness', 'how to care', 'at the end' and 'bereavement, grief and loss'. There is also a page with downloadable resources that can be printed and handed out to initiate conversations or for reading later.
- *Clinical Practice:* Palliative care as a specialist health field draws upon a multidisciplinary body of evidence to support its practice. These pages are designed to support clinical practice by summarising the state of the evidence and by providing clinicians with access to relevant literature where possible.
- *Finding Evidence:* These pages are designed specifically for health professionals. They look at the role, nature and sources of evidence and the application of evidence in practice.

Refer colleagues, patients and their families to information that is available 24 hours a day, is free, relevant, useful and most importantly quality assured. There are a variety of information pieces available for the palliative care community to order, including brochures, fact sheets and bookmarks. You can [view these resources](#) on the website and download an order form.

Visit [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au) and learn more about palliative care. The website is evaluated for quality and has been written by Australian healthcare professionals. You may have a computer at home, and there are also computers in the Hospice, so go and have a look at CareSearch now!