

An Australian Knowledge Network for Palliative Care



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1. The Project



**Background and specified
outcomes**

1.1 Purpose of Project

- “To scope the development of a Knowledge Network for palliative care in Australia. It is envisaged that the Knowledge Network will be multi-phased, incorporating a number of discrete components.”

1.2 What is meant by a Knowledge Network?

- Repository of resources
- Vehicle to link practitioners
- Mechanism to integrate and support various existing facilities and resources
- Support the development of communities of practice
- One stop shop

1.3 What is to be produced by the project

- Conceptual model of a Knowledge Network for palliative care in Australia including components and functions; stakeholders and partners; governance and ownership.
- Business plan identifying the resources needed; potential partners; implementation process; IT issues; and marketing and promotional strategies

2. The Issues



Key framing factors


2.1 For whom are we designing the network?

- The palliative care community?
- Practitioners?
- Where do carers, patients and the community sit in the network?
- Are there special needs groups e.g. rural and remote, multicultural, indigenous, MND, paediatric?

2.2 What is the purpose of the network?

- To improve care of the patient?
- To bring about clinical change?
- To prevent isolation and create linkages?
- To be a repository of resources?
- To develop communities of practice?
- To be a one-stop shop for everyone?

2.3 What should be on the network?



- Clinical resources?
- Community resources?
- Research resources?
- Service resources?
- Education resources?
- Communication networks and facilities to encourage interaction?

2.4 How should we link to what is currently available?

- How do we make use of the resources currently available in Australia?
- What relationship should CareSearch have to the network?
- How do we organise relationships with other groups and facilities?

2.5 What are the barriers?



- Is there a need?
- “Silo” mentality
- Duplicating existing resources
- Insufficient resources and skill level
- Too expensive
- Trying to do too much

3. The Process



**How we are investigating
the concepts**

3.1 Who is investigating the concepts



- Role of the palliative care community
- Role of Knowledge Network Management Group
- Role of local project group
- Role of experts and specialist consultants

3.2 Membership of the Knowledge Network Management Group

- Representative of CareSearch project: L. Kristjanson
- Representative of ACEBCP: P. Philips
- Representative of Palliative Care Inter-Governmental Forum: S. Hanson
- Representatives from Academic institutions: P.Martin, H. Buchanan
- Departmental representative: R. Evans
- PCA Representative:
- IT Expertise: G. Doherty
- Indigenous Needs:
- Consumer Health Forum:
- Carers Australia:


3.3 Steps in the process

- Investigating concept issues
- Determining the final concept(s)
- Analysing the IT, financial, governance, legal, marketing, partnership implications of the final concept(s)
- Communicating with stakeholders
- Developing the business plan

3.4 The role of communication

- Importance of communicating and developing relationships with all who may be involved with, affected by, or use the Knowledge network
- Communication strategies being used:
 - ➔ Webpages in CareSearch;
 - ➔ Project newsletters;
 - ➔ Promotions within existing newsletters;
 - ➔ Conference presentations;
 - ➔ Knowledge Network tour.

3.5 How we are investigating concept options



- Needs survey
- Literature review
- Website reviews
- Identifying Australian sites
- Feedback from the palliative community
- Communications strategy

3.6 Analysing the concept option

- Knowledge Network Management Group to determine the final concept option
- Specialist advice from various groups will be sought on the implications of the final concept option

3.7 The Business Plan

- A document that will allow a decision about a Knowledge Network
- To cover concept framework and content; resource needs; legal and governance issues; relationships and linkages; IT status; marketing and promotional needs; sustainability proposals; and evaluation

3.8 How to get involved



- Get project updates at the CareSearch website at www.caresearch.com.au
- Join the email list for newsletters or send comments and ideas to Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au
- Speak to someone on the Knowledge Network Management Group
- Complete a needs survey for the Knowledge Network at www.caresearch.com.au