

Background to the Knowledge Network Project

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Understanding palliative care

A concept of care which provides coordinated medical, nursing and allied services for people who are terminally ill, delivered where possible in the environment of the person's choice, and which provides physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual support for patients, and support for patients' families and friends.

PCA website, Oct 2006

Understanding evidence

- explicit (that is, codified and propositional);
- systematic (that is, uses transparent and explicit methods for codifying); and
- replicable (that is, following the same methods with the same samples will lead to the same results).

CHSRF, 2005

- Evidence schemas such as NHMRC

Understanding evidence based practice

- Best available evidence
- Client's values and expectations
- Practitioner's individual expertise and the clinical circumstance

- Sackett et al, 1997

Evidence and palliative care

- Emerging discipline
- Lack of palliative evidence
- Best available evidence
- Multidisciplinary base
- Difficulties in literature searching
- Fragmented repositories
- Different settings and providers of care
- Developing culture of EBM and knowledge translation

Problems in conducting research and developing evidence

- Historical and social barriers to do with researching death and dying
- Lack of research culture, infrastructure and training
- Geographic separation impedes collaboration
- Funding difficulties
- Clinical load of staff
- Methodological and ethical issues

PCA Research Study, 2000

Evidence Based (Palliative Care) project

- the collection, evaluation and dissemination of published and unpublished Australian evidence in palliative care that is currently difficult to access, and
- a review of the ways to implement evidence based practice generally into palliative care.

Identifying and collating the missing literature

- Conference abstracts
- Non-indexed journal articles
- Theses and treatises
- Grey literature

(Literature other than that readily available and indexed; complements rather than duplicates)

Disseminating the literature

- Creating the literature databases
- Building a website for public access
- Developing an evaluation schema

Building capacity

- Research data management system
- Project research
- Searching effectively
- Brokering and directing to quality resources

Knowledge Network Business Plan Project

- Literature review, review of websites, mapping of existing resources
- Knowledge Network Tour
- IT review
- Marketing and financial analyses
- Risk, governance and legal assessments
- Development of business plan

Project Approval

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