

## Project Update April 2008

### Final Project Update

This will be the last of the Project Update newsletters. On 26 May 2008, CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network* will be launched. With the new website we will be setting up a new newsletter called @CareSearch to keep users in touch with what's happening with the website and the project.

This newsletter will replace both the current CareSearch eNews and the Project Update. It will be distributed on the first Wednesday every month. Everybody who is currently receiving either the CareSearch eNews or the Project Update will be emailed or posted a copy of the inaugural edition of @CareSearch.

### State of development

The new website is currently being built "behind" the existing site. It will be revealed on the 26<sup>th</sup> May when the existing website will be decommissioned. All the material that is currently on the site is being included on the new website. We have nearly completed the transfer of the existing resources into the new style.

We are intending to stop adding material such as new conferences to the current website at the end of April. This will give us time to check the equivalence of transfers and to ensure currency between the two sites. While material will be added to the new site, it won't be available until the release. From now until the next release, the existing site and the existing databases will still be able to be accessed and used. The Research Data Management System will continue to be operational during this transitional period.

Final operational testing is scheduled for mid-May and this will enable us to test the change over to the new site. This will occur outside of standard office hours so that we can minimise any inconvenience. There may be some slight interruptions to access but we will advise users of any scheduled interruptions.

### What will be in the new website?

The website will incorporate all the existing resources but the structure will be different. We are creating resources for specific groups and sets of specific resources relating to palliative care. The new site will have nine main sections. For some users they will only need one of these sections while other users may be interested in all the different sections.

The nine sections are:

- **About palliative care:** Provides a context for palliative care within Australia and includes the National Palliative Care Program section from the current website.
- **For patients and families:** A section for those whose lives are directly affected by the need for palliative care. It includes the patient and carer pages developed for the existing website with new pages for specific groups requiring palliative care and a section for consumers on finding out more.
- **Finding Services:** Consolidates many of the resources collated for the patient and carer section of the existing website and will help both clinicians and patients and families to source appropriate services and resources throughout Australia.
- **Clinical Practice:** A new section that incorporates some pages from the existing website and a series of new pages relating to physical, psychological, social and spiritual issues. There also pages to help develop understanding about the care need of specific populations.
- **Finding Evidence:** A comprehensive section that consolidates the information about finding, appraising, generating, communicating and using evidence within palliative care. It also provides access to various databases to support access to palliative care literature and evidence including PubMed topic searches, CareSearch Review Collection and CareSearch Grey Literature.
- **Education:** Retains the current education section that links users to information about formal qualifications, short courses, conferences and web based learning modules.
- **Research Resources:** Provides access to the Research Data Management System the Research Studies Register and grants information but will also contain a new section on Conducting Research in palliative care.
- **Professional Groups:** Contains the GP pages from the existing site as well as pages for the other groups involved in care such as social workers, palliative nurses, bereavement counsellors and volunteers.
- **About CareSearch:** Provides information on the project development and access to promotional resources and presentations relating to CareSearch.

The Project Team has worked with members of the Knowledge Network Management Group and the National Advisory Group in developing the information framework and the structure for the content. There has been a substantial content development schedule to provide these new resources. These new pages are now being reviewed and uploaded into the new website.

### **Promotional materials**

Many users have ordered promotional materials for their staff or their clients. Everybody who has previously requested information will be sent a pack of the new items along with information on how to order promotional materials. If you have not requested promotional information before but would like to be sent a pack, please contact us.

## **Communications and dissemination schedule**

Over the next six months, members of the Project Team and members from the Knowledge Network Management Group and the National Advisory Group will be presenting at various conferences throughout Australia. Where possible, we would like to take the opportunity to run public meetings and/or service based workshops to explain the resources and how they can be used. Please contact the project team if you would like to find out details of our presentations, or if you would be interested in hosting a workshop or presentation.

We are currently attending conferences in Alice Springs, Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, Canberra, Gold Coast and Adelaide. So please get in touch if you're interested.

## **Thank you**

The new website and the existing website could not function without the contribution of many people. Some are employed as project staff but many donate their skills and expertise. The Knowledge Network Management Group and the National Advisory Group have participated not only as members of the two committees but as advisors, reviewers and evaluators. Across Australia, clinical staff, consumers, academics, volunteers and researchers have helped us create and improve pages and resources.

I'd like to take the opportunity publicly to thank the many people associated with this project. They have volunteered an enormous number of hours of their time and their expertise in helping us to produce this resource. We truly appreciate the very generous contribution that so many people have made to this project.

Jennifer Tieman  
Network Director

## **Newsletter Items of Interest**

If there is anything that you would like to include in the first edition of *@CareSearch*, please send details to [Natasha.Schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Natasha.Schembri@flinders.edu.au).

You can also contact Natasha if you wish to order any current promotional items such as factsheets or bookmarks.