

# KNOWLEDGE NETWORK IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Incorporating CareSearch



## Project Update December 2006

### Understanding the Knowledge Network in palliative care

Today's health care workers face new challenges in keeping up with a rapidly growing information base and demands for accountable and evidence based practice. Patients, carers and families often find it hard to locate relevant and reliable information about their health and care. These problems can be more difficult for practitioners and patients who live in rural or remote areas.

A Knowledge Network could provide a one stop shop of information and practical resources serving the needs of those providing palliative care or those affected by palliative care. It could also enable and support interactions between individuals and networks of people so that they can develop, share and apply their knowledge to improve palliative care in Australia.

In May the Australian Government committed funding to the development of a Knowledge Network. The Project commenced on 1 July 2006. The Knowledge Network will build upon and incorporate materials and functions that have been developed for the CareSearch website. While the Knowledge Network is being planned and produced, additional materials for a broader audience including GPs and patients and carers will be added to the CareSearch website.

### Introducing the Knowledge Network Team

Supporting the development of the Knowledge Network is a broadly experienced and diversely skilled project team.

This team consists of the following people:

#### Jennifer Tieman:

Jennifer is the Network Director for the Knowledge Network Project. As the director Jennifer's role is to manage the project and the project team. Prior to Knowledge Network, Jennifer was involved with CareSearch and also has extensive experience in working within the government, community and education sectors.



Figure 1 Knowledge Network Project Team: From Left to Right, Andrew, Chris, Kate, Jennifer, Ruth, Gail and Natasha.

#### Chris Sanderson:

Chris is a Research Officer on the Knowledge Network Project team. Chris is a doctor who specialises in palliative care and is currently assisting in the development of clinical pages for the CareSearch website.

#### Ruth Murton:

Ruth is the Web Content Officer on the Knowledge Network Project team and is responsible for transferring material into the web environment as well as working with our IT partner, Morton Blacketer, on functional issues relating to the various systems in the website. Ruth worked as the Research Assistant for the Knowledge Network scoping project in 2004.

#### Natasha Schembri:

Natasha has recently joined the Knowledge Network Project team as the Marketing Coordinator. Natasha's role will be to coordinate all marketing activities for the project as it transforms from CareSearch to the Knowledge Network. Prior to this role, Natasha worked in advertising agencies as an Account Manager and also as a Media Assistant.

#### Andrew Lyons-Reid:

Andrew has recently joined the Knowledge Network Project team as the Literature Collections Officer. He will be responsible for gathering, seeking permissions and adding conference abstracts, journals, grey literature and thesis and treatises to our Literature Collections database.

### **Gail Dooley:**

Gail is the most recent addition to the team and will be working as the Finance and Administrative Assistant managing these aspects of the project. Gail has recently come to us from the Department of Children's Services where she worked as a finance officer.

### **Kate Burns:**

Kate has also just joined us as a Research Officer. Kate will be producing materials and resources for the website on a part time basis with a specific focus on patients and carers. Kate has a social work background and has recently completed her PhD looking at patient and care giver perceptions of treatment and support services over time.

### **Knowledge Network Management Group**

The Knowledge Network Management Group established for the scoping study, will continue its role in the development phase of the Knowledge Network project. Dr Peter Martin, Regional Director of Palliative Care (Barwon Health), is the chair of the Management group.

In the near future, a Network National Advisory Group will be set up.

### **Consultation Workshop**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006 a consultation workshop was held in Adelaide to bring together key potential contributors within the palliative care community to explore the role and directions of the Knowledge Network. The main focus of the workshop was:

1. Developing a shared understanding of the Network's purposes and content
2. Feedback on key elements of the proposed content and functions of the network
3. Identifying opportunities, barriers and facilitators to the development of the Knowledge Network

During the Workshop a SWOT analysis was conducted to help scan the environment in which the Knowledge Network will be operating. This was then followed by team discussions on certain outcomes from the SWOT analysis. Some of the key findings were that the Knowledge Network is an innovative idea which can be used as a template for other areas to adopt. The attendees felt that it was a great way to consolidate key resources and was a fantastic opportunity to eliminate duplication. Concerns identified were the need to promote the Network to ensure that people are aware of it and to develop strong relationships with the palliative care community.

To view a copy of the workshop presentations, please visit the link below:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/Knowledgenetwork/tabid/498/Default.aspx>

### **Participation welcome!**

In developing the Knowledge Network we will require the skills and expertise of many groups and individuals. We welcome involvement in the development of the Knowledge Network. There are many ways to be involved including:

- Suggesting websites, resources, tools or functions that you have found helpful and that you think should be included on a Knowledge Network in palliative care
- Helping to evaluate the relevance and quality of materials for inclusion on the website
- Promoting the Caresearch website and Knowledge Network project within your organisation

You can learn more about the Australian Palliative Care Knowledge Network by:

- visiting the CareSearch website at [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au),
- emailing [caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au), or
- phoning the Knowledge Network Project Office on (08) 8275 2816.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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