



FROM THE WEBSITE

Quality Use of CareSearch Project

Knowing what's on CareSearch and where to look means patients and their families, as well as palliative care professionals, can find the information they need quickly and easily. The following resources were developed as part of [Quality Use of CareSearch](#) initiative:

- > **Commonly sought information:** A set of pages that consolidate the most appropriate resources for different groups of users or for common topics have been developed. Content directories include:
 - [Carer? Caring for someone?](#)
 - [Allied health](#)
 - [Living in the country?](#)
- > **Trainer powerpoints:** These powerpoints explain the most commonly used resources on CareSearch. A disk containing all the powerpoints can be ordered. A [training and support pack](#) gives suggestions on how to use these resources.
- > Hospital liaison resources: A [fact sheet](#) and [poster](#) for palliative care staff to share with their hospital-based colleagues are available and can be ordered.
- > A [national tour](#) is underway with workshops in capital cities over the next few months.
- > **Online training sessions** are scheduled during June. Sessions are free but bookings are essential. Groups of between 6 and 10 can also request an individual online training session by emailing caresearch@flinders.edu.au.
- > **Understanding CareSearch:** In this video, Dr Christine Sanderson explains what CareSearch is and how it can be used.

Living with advanced cancer

[Life, Hope and Reality](#) is a new resource developed by researchers from the Centre for Health Research & Psycho-Oncology that addresses the very real concerns patients living with advanced cancer and their carers face, including:

- > [physical needs](#) and [social needs](#)
- > [emotional well-being](#)
- > the effects of the cancer on [lifestyle](#) and [finances](#)
- > [end of life](#) and [palliative care](#)
- > [Self-assessment tools](#) that can be used to help patients and carers to identify specific concerns to discuss with their health care team

nurses[HUB]news May 2011

The [nurses\[HUB\]news \(May 2011 edition\)](#) is now available.

Research Studies Register

Providing details of research in progress can prevent duplication in research activity, encourage the development of research networks and facilitate the implementation of research findings. The following studies have been submitted:

- > **Prescribing considerations for home oxygen use**
Breaden, K., Currow DC, et al
Despite the widespread use of oxygen in the community, little is known about the threshold that clinicians use for prescribing this therapy.
- > **The Long Goodbye**
Dooley, K., Cheney, J., De Bakker, J., Good, P.
To develop, implement and evaluate a collaborative, integrated palliative model of care for people living with dementia and their families across the community/residential aged care continuum.

If you have a study you would like to share with the palliative care community please download the [Research Studies proforma](#) and email the completed form to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

CareSearch Grey Literature: Non-indexed journals

This database includes details on two Australian non-indexed palliative care publications - Grief Matters and Social Networks. Several articles from the most recent editions are detailed below:

- > Roberts, M. Grief, loss and trauma: frequent visitors to school communities. *Grief Matters*, 14(1): 8-10, 2011
- > Seah, Chi How; Wilson, A. A voyage in the grief labyrinth: the impact of grief on university students' academic progress and overall wellbeing. *Grief Matters*, 14(1): 18-25, 2011
- > Corbett, Helen. What's health promotion got to do with advance care planning. *Social Networks-The Newsletter of the Palliative Care and Public Health Network*, 23: 7-8, 2011

The abstracts are available within the CareSearch Grey Literature database. If you are not sure how to search the database, see the [Grey Literature](#) short training module.

CareSearch Review Collection

Seventeen reviews were added to the [CareSearch Review Collection](#) in May. They include:

- > Remedios C, Thomas K, Hudson P. [Psychosocial and bereavement support for family caregivers of palliative care patients: a review of the empirical literature](#). Melbourne: Centre for Palliative Care; 2011.

This review looked at the experiences, impact and needs of family caregivers during care provision for their relative and into bereavement, as well as evidence based psychosocial and bereavement support interventions for family caregivers of palliative care patients.

- > Boston P, Bruce A, Schreiber R. [Existential suffering in the palliative care setting: an integrated literature review](#). J Pain Symptom Manage. 2011 Mar;41(3):604-18.

This review examined the literature relating to existential suffering in palliative care with regard to the significance of existential suffering in end-of-life care, definitions, conceptual frameworks, and interventions.

- > Mercadante S, Porzio G, Valle A, Fusco F, Aielli F, Costanzo V; "Home Care Italy" Group. [Palliative sedation in patients with advanced cancer followed at home: a systematic review](#). J Pain Symptom Manage. 2011 Apr;41(4):754-60.

This study systematically reviewed articles regarding Palliative Sedation performed at home in patients with intractable symptoms. The authors concluded that palliative sedation appears to be a feasible treatment option among selected patients and could be a potentially important contribution to improving care for those who choose to die at home.

- > Gysels M, Pell C, Straus L, Pool R. [End of life care in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review of the qualitative literature](#). BMC Palliat Care. 2011 Mar 9;10:6.

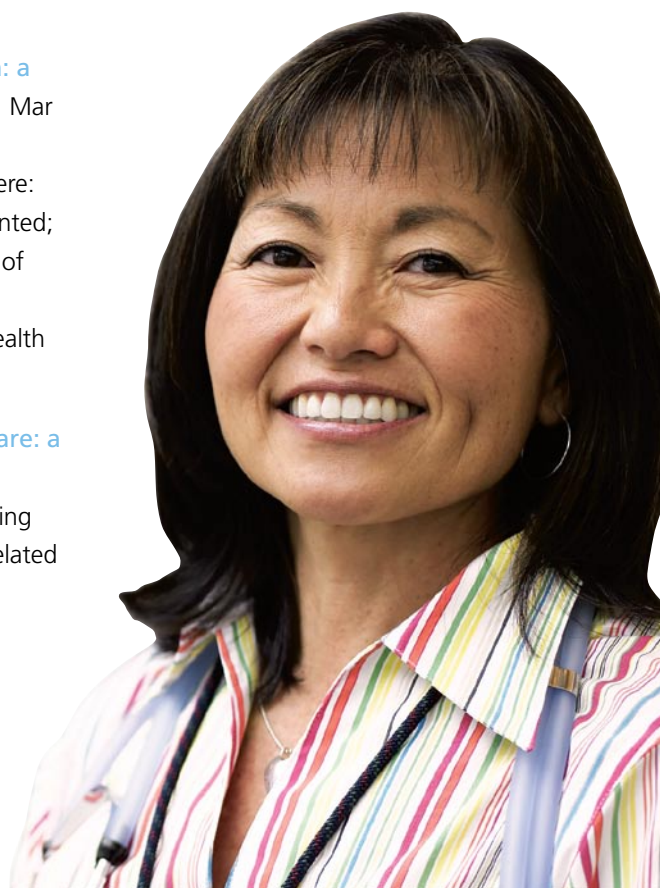
Fifty one studies were included in the qualitative synthesis. Key findings were: research focus has been on HIV/AIDS and other illnesses are under-represented; care needs should be assessed from a household perspective; the capacity of the extended family to withstand crisis is not inexhaustible; and that while home and community based care is important, support from the formal health system is also required.

- > Martins Pereira S, Fonseca AM, Sofia Carvalho A. [Burnout in palliative care: a systematic review](#). Nurs Ethics. 2011 18(3):317-26.

This article reports on the findings of a systematic review aimed at identifying described burnout levels in palliative care nurses and physicians, and the related risks and protective factors.

New Marketing and Communications Officer

Natasha Schembri has taken maternity leave for 12 months. Erin Koop has been appointed as the new Marketing and Communications officer for the CareSearch project. Erin has a wealth of experience in marketing, promotions and communications. She can be contacted by emailing erin.koop@flinders.edu.au or phoning 08 7221 8227.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

We need to talk about dying - PCA survey

A recent [PCA survey](#) of 1,000 Australians suggests that we need to talk about dying. The survey showed:

- > The majority of Australians haven't discussed dying with their loved ones
- > Most people wanted to be able to die at home
- > Less than 20 per cent have recorded any sort of plan for their end of life care

The survey was released as part of [PCA's National Palliative Care Week](#).

A RECENT PCA SURVEY OF 1,000 AUSTRALIANS SUGGESTS THAT WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DYING.

Health and Ageing 2011-2012 Budget Information

Details of the [Department of Health and Ageing's 2011-2012 Budget Information](#) are now available.

New psychosocial and bereavement support guidelines

[Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Psychosocial and Bereavement Support of Family Caregivers of Palliative Care Patients](#) have been published by the Centre for Palliative Care as a resource for health professionals to improve the psychosocial and bereavement support of family caregivers of palliative care patients.

Health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: 2011 overview

This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare publication provides statistical summaries relating to [the health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#).

TGA Launches New Website

The Australian community will have enhanced access to authoritative information about the safety of medicines and medical devices through a [revamped Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) website](#).

Local Palliative Care Grants Program Round 6

Eighty one organisations have received funding for the purchase of equipment and/or fitout of premises to improve access to high quality palliative services. Details on the [Round 6](#) are now available.

Planning for end of life for people with dementia

Alzheimer's Australia has produced two end of life discussion papers:

- > [Planning for the End of Life for People with Dementia Part 1](#) discusses issues including palliative care, refusal of treatment, pain control, resuscitation, residential care, advance financial planning and enduring power of attorney.
- > [Planning for the End of Life for People with Dementia Part 2](#) looks at the issue of euthanasia and explores the arguments on both sides of the debate, including particular issues relevant to people with dementia.

RESEARCH NEWS

NHMRC Development Grants

The [NHMRC Development Grants](#) provide funding for early proof-of-principle or pre-seed stage research to enable commercial development of a product, process, procedure or service that if applied, would result in improved health care, disease prevention or provide health cost savings. Applications close 18 July 2011.

Building Research Translation

[NHMRC's Communique on the national workshop](#) looking at the proposal for a National Network of NHMRC-funded clinical researchers and centres is now available along with the key presentations.

First PaCCSC study completed

The Ketamine study reached its recruitment target in February 2011. This is the [first study to be completed by PaCCSC](#) and it is a significant milestone for the Collaborative. Preliminary data analysis has been completed and findings from the study are beginning to be disseminated to the palliative care community.

NICE Pathways

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence has released a new online tool, [NICE Pathways](#) that provides fast access to NICE guidance and their recommendations on a specific clinical or health topic.



CONFERENCES

Grief and bereavement issues are closely associated with palliative care. There are a number of conferences in this field over the coming few months.

Conference: [9th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society and Association for Death Education and Counseling 33rd Annual Conference](#)

Date: June 21-25 2011

Location: Miami, Florida

Conference: [Death Down Under](#)

Date: June 27-28 2011

Location: Sydney, NSW

Conference: [National Association for Loss & Grief Annual Conference 2011](#)

Date: September 1 2011

Location: Melbourne, Victoria

Conference: [Australian Centre for Grief & Bereavement International Conference 2011](#)

Date: October 20-21 2011

Location: Melbourne, Victoria

You can find out more about what is happening with conferences by checking the [Conference](#) page.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities.

You can also order the new Quality Use of CareSearch items including:

- > General poster for use in hospitals
- > Palliative care information for hospital health professionals

You can view all the [CareSearch promotional resources](#) on the website and download an order form. All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

If you are faxing promotional orders to us, please make sure you use our new fax number.

- > Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238

July 2011 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in July 2011. If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.



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