

**CareSearch Project Research Studies Register:**

0010

**Registration Proforma**

**Study Title:** IPP-SHR and Redland Hospital Collaboration - Ethical decision making in a health care setting including findings on end of life care.

**Brief description of the study:** The first step in this program of research was a successful research project completed as a collaborative project between Central Queensland University (CQU) and Redland Hospital. The work was titled, "The development of an innovative organizational model for responding to ethical concerns in acute medicine: Bayside Health Service District: Acute Medical Ward as Case Study", was funded and conducted under the auspices of a CQU Industry Grant, funded jointly by CQU and Bayside District Health Service. The research documented the processes used by health professional in resolving ethical dilemmas in the acute hospital setting. The important findings in relation to palliative care is that end-of-life ethical decisions are considered most difficult in the acute setting. Also, the findings indicate that it is important to view and deal with end-of-life issues from that perspective of the acute care system as well as the palliative care system. The findings from this study have been published. The study has been extended to include data collection in the Accident and Emergency department of the hospital. The extension study has now been completed and the findings published.

**Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)**

	Epidemiology
<b>x</b>	<b>Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive</b>
	Mixed Method
	Systematic Review
	Intervention: RCT
	Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
	Intervention: Case series

**Project details:**

Funding source (Optional): Bayside Health & Central Queensland University

Has the study received ethics approval?	<b>x</b>	Yes		No		Not applicable
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Project starting date: 2004

Project completion date: 2008

Multi site:		Yes	<b>x</b>	No		Not applicable
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**RESEARCHERS**

Principle Investigator (name) Dr Pam McGrath (CQU)

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Investigator B (Name) Dr David Hendersen (Redlands Hospital)

Investigator C (Name) Mr Hamish Holewa (CQU)

Investigator D (Name)

Investigator E (Name)

**Associated publications / reports:**

McGrath P., Henderson, D. Holewa H., (2006) Patient-centred Care: Qualitative Findings on Health Professionals Understanding of Ethics in Acute Medicine. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 3,3:149-160.

McGrath P. & Holewa H (2006) Ethical Decision Making in an Acute Medical Ward: Australian Findings on Dealing with Conflict and Tension, *Ethics and Behavior*, 16,3:233-252.

McGrath P. & Henderson D., (2008) Resolving End of Life Ethical Concerns: Important Palliative Care Practice Development Issues for Acute Medicine in Australia, *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 25,3:215-222.

McGrath P., Phillips E. (2009) Ethical Decision-making in an Emergency Department: Findings on Nursing Advocacy **Monash Bioethics Review**. June, 28,2:15.1-15.16.

McGrath P., Henderson D. (2008) 'Oh, that's a really hard question': Australian findings on ethical reflection in an Accident and Emergency ward. *HEC Forum*, 20 (4) : 357-373.

McGrath P., Holewa H., McGrath Z., (2007) Nursing Advocacy in an Australian Multidisciplinary Context: Findings on Medicocentrism, *Scandinavian Journal of the Caring Sciences*, 20, 4: 394-402.

McGrath P., (2006) Multidisciplinary insights on the evolving role of the ethics committee in an Australian regional hospital, *Monash Bioethics Review*, 25,3:59-72.

McGrath P (2010) The 'Real World' of Ethical Decision-making: Insights from research. Nova Science. In: "Bioethics: Principles, Perspectives and Methodology, and Issues." Edited by: Frank Columbus. In Press.

**Project Number 0010**

**Topics: End of Life Decision Making,  
Settings of Palliative Care**