



The development of Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting  
**THE COMPAC PROJECT**

## **COMPAC Newsletter Number 2**

**June 2007**

### **Project Progress**

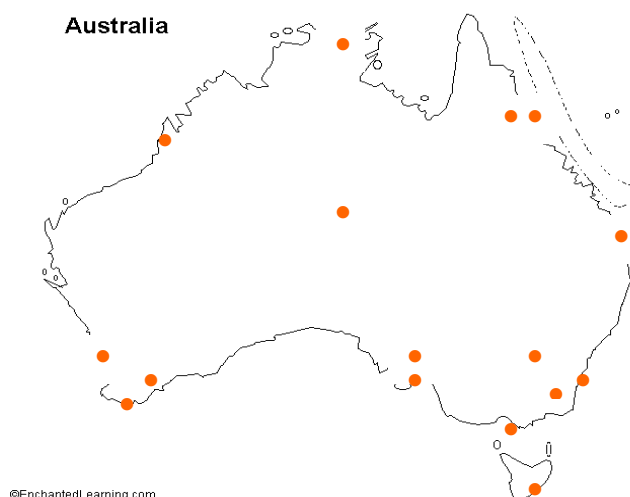
The COMPAC project has now been underway for just over 3 months. We have completed the first phase of our public consultation and have commenced the systematic literature review. The project website is functioning and the interactive community forum is attracting attention. The COMPAC project has now been assigned a Guideline Assessment Register (GAR) Consultant by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

### **NHMRC GAR Consultant**

Dr Adele Weston has been appointed the project's GAR Consultant and will provide us with support in finding and using evidence and applying NHMRC criteria when developing the evidence based guidelines. Adele is a research consultant who has had a wealth of experience in conducting systematic reviews and has been a GAR consultant on a number of other projects. We are pleased to welcome Adele.

### **National Public Consultation**

The COMPAC project is a national project, so to get input from people across Australia, our project officer Kristi Holloway has traveled to every state and territory to talk with people who work in the areas of aged care and palliative care, and who have an interest in providing care to older adults in the community setting. Some of the groups we have spoken to include carers, consumers (patients), community nurses, general practitioners and aged care workers. We have been asking all of these groups what they consider are the most important issues relating to providing care to older Australians in the community setting. In addition to speaking with people from cities, we were also particularly interested in involving those people living and working in rural areas, and we have traveled to rural centres across Australia (see map). Focus groups and interviews were held in all of the locations. We have now completed the first phase of our consultation and have spoken with over 170 people across Australia. If you were not involved in this process and would like to be involved in the project, please contact us through the project website or at [rmconigley@westnet.com.au](mailto:rmconigley@westnet.com.au)



### **Identified Issues from Public Consultation**

From the national consultation there are a number of key issues that have been identified that are specific to providing aged care in the community. These issues, along with many other topics discussed during the focus groups and interviews, will be taken into account when developing the guidelines:

- Providing aged care in community is unique, in that the population and setting is extremely diverse
- There are many issues that influence the provision of community aged care, for example transport, time, resources, equipment and services
- Informal caregivers provide much of the care in the community, but do not always get adequate support and assistance
- Care coordination and case conferencing are vital to ensure continuity of care, and to reduce the stress and burden placed on patients and carers
- Respite is essential for carers providing care for elderly family/friends over an extended period of time
- Crisis Care and after hours assistance may be required and need to be easily accessible
- People living in rural and remote areas may have extra issues, such as isolation, travel to access services and lack of experienced caregivers
- Staff working in the community aged care sector have specific needs. In particular, issues such as the scope of practice for staff, getting access to appropriate education and stress and burnout are issues of concern.

### **COMPAC Community Forums**

The COMPAC project has an interactive website, which provides up-to-date information about the progress of the project. Also available through the website is a community forum, which we would like to encourage everyone to become involved in by posting relevant comments. We welcome the involvement of as many people as possible in the project.

The COMPAC website is available at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/CommPAC>

If anyone has any queries related to the COMPAC project, please contact the project manager, Dr Ruth McConigley at [rmcconigley@westnet.com.au](mailto:rmcconigley@westnet.com.au) or (08)9848 2820.