



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

**COMPAC Newsletter Number 3**  
**August 2007**

**Project Progress**

The COMPAC project has now been in progress for close to 6 months. We have made some positive changes to the project and all is now well under way. We also have new additions to the COMPAC team. The initial phase of public consultation is complete and analysis of the data is nearly finalised. The literature review process is progressing.

**Meet the Team**

In recent months we have recruited new additions to the project team. The team now includes, Dr Jeremy Drake (Acting Project Manager), Ms Helen Morris, Ms Lesley Hastings, Ms Kristi Holloway, Dr Anna Petterson, Ms Celine Fournier, Dr Judi Greaves, Ms Ursula Ladsinski, Ms Aurora Popescu, Ms Kayty Plastow, and Ms Lauren Whitelaw. Welcome all. Many of these staff members are working with us for a short period only, to complete the literature review component speedily. They are all to be commended for bringing their expertise and energy to such a fast moving and rigorous project.

We have also had to say a sad “Goodbye” to Dr Ruth McConigley. We would like to express our gratitude to Ruth for all of her hard work and support on the COMPAC project. She has contributed hugely to the setting up and initial stages of the project.

Please see our website under “Project Team” to find out more information about the team producing the guidelines.



(L to R) Ursula Ladsinski, Jeremy Drake and Helen Morris



(L to R) Anna Petterson, Kristi Holloway, Jeremy Drake and Ursula Ladsinski

**New Reference Group Members**

- Dr Jeff Rowland- Geriatrician, Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane.
- Ms Helen Walker- Palliative Care Intergovernmental Forum, Perth.

**“Plain English” Guidelines**

The development of a plain English version of the *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting* has now been approved and funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. From the national public consultation it was clear that such a second document would be appropriate for quick and easy reference by health care professionals, care workers, clients, and families. If any one would like more information or would like to comment on these plain English guidelines, please visit our website.

### **National Public Consultation: Analysis**

The initial phase of the consultative process of the COMPAC project is complete and analysis of the data is almost finalised. From this analysis, we have identified the key issues relevant to the provision of a palliative approach for aged care in the community setting. The findings generated from the analysis have been used, and will continue to direct the development the guidelines.

### **Literature Review**

The domains (topic areas) for COMPAC have been established and the extensive process of reviewing the relevant literature is well under way. This review process will allow the development of Good Practice Points and Guidelines. Dr Adele Weston is the Guideline Assessment Register Consultant providing advice from the National Health and Medical Research Council for the project so that this body will consider approving the final guideline documents. The Department of Health and Ageing's representative is Ms Phyl Crawford.

### **COMPAC Community Forums**

The COMPAC project continues to have an interactive website, which provides up-to-date information about the progress of the project. Also available through the website is a community forum, in which we would continue to encourage everyone to become involved 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 Acting Project Manager Dr Jeremy Drake [j.drake@ecu.edu.au](mailto:j.drake@ecu.edu.au) or (08)9273 8941.