



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

**COMPAC Newsletter Number 8**  
**July 2008**

**Project Progress**

The COMPAC project is almost complete. The final drafts of *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community* and the 'plain English' versions of the guidelines, as well as the final project report have been submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing. It has been a busy couple of months finalising the documents and the project team are now concluding the project.

**Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community**

Public comment for the main documents closed on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2008. The project team received comprehensive feedback during this period. All submissions were collated and the Guideline Development Group met via teleconference to discuss the feedback and consider appropriate actions to incorporate the submissions. The project team then made amendments to the documents to incorporate the suggested changes. The final drafted documents were then circulated among the GDG and the reference group for a final check.

**Abbreviated Version of the Guidelines**

The 'plain English' version of the *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community* was drafted and pilot tested. This additional document was developed as a quick and easy reference to key information for caregivers, clients, and families. This 'plain English' version was pilot tested with 4 focus groups, involving older people, families, care workers and volunteers. The overall feedback was positive. However, because the 'plain English' version was targeted at a broad audience (older people, their families and care workers), there were concerns that older people may misinterpret information that was directed at care workers. This led to decision to separate the document into 2 separate booklets:

1. For older people receiving care, and for their family and friends, and
2. For care workers providing care for older people and their families.

The project team incorporated the feedback and changes to the two documents which was suggested during the focus groups and this was circulated for final check.

## **Documents submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing**

The *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community*, the two 'plain English' versions of the guidelines, and the final project report have been submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing.

The main guideline document and the 'plain English' versions will now be formatted by Biotext (a science information consultancy group). Once the documents have been formatted they will be submitted to the NHMRC for consideration of approval.

## **Final Stages of the Project**

The project team are now finalising the project.

## **Thankyou**

The COMPAC project team would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported the project. There are many organisations and/or individuals who have contributed time for this project over the past 18 months.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the exceptional contribution of the Reference Group, members of the project team, the Guideline Development Group, and the guideline assessment registrar.

If you have any further queries related to the COMPAC project, please contact the Project Manager Kristi Holloway directly, by emailing [k.holloway@ecu.edu.au](mailto:k.holloway@ecu.edu.au) or phoning (08) 9845 1716, or visit the COMPAC website, which is available at [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au) - click on the quick link "COMPAC".

