



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

COMPAC NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1

APRIL 2007

Introducing the COMPAC project

The COMPAC project was commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and a team of investigators from Edith Cowan University, Curtin University, Flinders University and Queensland University of Technology won the tender and will run the project. The aim of the COMPAC project is to adapt the *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care** for use in the community setting. The end product of this project will be a set of evidence based guidelines that will assist care providers to deliver a palliative approach to older Australians who wish to remain in their own homes.

There are two major parts to the project. The first is to undertake a national consultation, by speaking with key stakeholders all across Australia. The second part of the project involves conducting a systematic review of the literature so that the guidelines that we develop are based on the best possible evidence.

To achieve this we have a big team working on the project who are scattered across Australia. We have representatives from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, the ACT and New South Wales all involved in the project. We even have two rural representatives working on the project – our project manager Ruth McConigley and project officer Kristi Holloway are both based in the South West coast of WA, in a picturesque little town called Denmark.

* The Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care are available to download at www.health.gov.au



L-R: Denmark Town, Denmark River, Ocean Beach

Talking to People Australia-wide

The COMPAC project is a national project, so we want to talk with people all across Australia. We want to talk with people who work in the areas of aged care or palliative care and who have an interest in providing care in the community setting, to find out what they think should be included in the guidelines. We also want to talk to people who live in rural Australia and people in Indigenous communities across the country. And, we especially want to talk with older people and their carers and families about what they think is important when receiving care at home.

Our project officer Kristi Holloway is travelling around Australia to talk with people in all capital cities and also in rural centres. Focus groups and interviews will be held in all of these locations. Kristi's itinerary is below. If you would like to be involved, please contact Kristi at k.holloway@ecu.edu.au or our project manager Ruth McConigley on (08) 9848 2820 or rmcconigley@westnet.com.au and they will be happy to talk with you. If you are unable to attend one of the dates below but would like to contribute you can either participate in a telephone interview or send us your thoughts via email. You can also use the community forum on the project webpage to post thoughts and suggestions. We welcome all contributions that people wish to make to this project.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE AND MAP FOR THE COMPAC PROJECT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Albany Bremer Bay Walpole Perth Broome	March 2007
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Adelaide Port Pirie	3-5 April 2007 5 April 2007
VICTORIA	Melbourne	17-18 April
TASMANIA	Hobart	19-20 April
NEW SOUTH WALES	Sydney Forbes (TBC)	23-24 April 27 April
ACT	Canberra	26 April
QUEENSLAND	Brisbane Cairns Atherton (TBC)	8-9 May 10 May 11 May
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Darwin Alice Springs (TBC)	15-16 May 18 May

