

Welcome to the PCC4U project newsletter. Our focus is to actively promote the uptake of the PCC4U resources in all universities which offer medical, nursing and allied health training, extending and developing networks among participating universities, and developing strategies for the ongoing sustainability of the PCC4U project.

If you would like the project team to visit you to introduce the PCC4U resources, to help you with curriculum mapping and with the customisation of learning resources in a workshop or personal format, please contact us at mupccp@qut.edu.au

What have we been doing?

Since the last newsletter in August the project team has attended the APCC Conference, released the new PCC4U website and reviewed our implementation plans for 2008–2009. In this newsletter, you will find an interview with the University of the Sunshine Coast's Gail Palmer who is implementing the PCC4U teaching and learning resources with her second-year nursing students. A feedback letter from Scott Sargant and Penny Tuffin, Pharmacy at Curtin University, is also included.

The APCC Conference

The PCC4U team attended the 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference (APCC) held recently (28–31 August 2007) at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The team staffed an exhibition booth along with team members from the Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA). The conference proved an exciting opportunity to meet and listen to some of the key leaders, decision makers and service providers from the Australian and international palliative care community. The PCC4U-PEPA booth was well attended with significant interest being shown in the PCC4U resources, with many finding new homes.



David Emmett PCC4U (seated) with
Nhu Tran and Vinesh Oommen PEPA

Implementation Update

A schedule for inviting all universities which offer undergraduate health courses to participate in the PCC4U project was developed early in 2007 to meet targets specified in the project plan approved by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Due to the strong uptake of the project we have decided to accelerate the targets so that all universities will be invited to participate in the uptake of PCC4U resources by the end of 2008. This will allow the project team to use 2009 to consolidate the implementation of palliative care in undergraduate courses and focus on strategies for ensuring sustainability. For those of you we have not contacted to date, you will be hearing from us in 2008!

2007 Universities	Courses	Invited
18	101	101

2008 Universities	Courses	Invited
21	91	10

The project in brief

The PCC4U project is an initiative of the Australian Department of Health and Ageing through the National Palliative Care Program that aims to promote inclusion of palliative care education as an integral part of all medical, nursing and allied health undergraduate training.

New website launched

PCC4U has launched a new website (see screen capture at right). This website will give you up-to-date information on the PCC4U project including the aims, objectives and deliverables. If you are interested in Palliative Care, or the education of undergraduates in this area of practice, we hope that you will take the time to become familiar with the PCC4U Project through these web pages. This project website could be applicable to you professionally or as a consumer, family member or volunteer, educator or trainer.

As you navigate your way around our site please feel free to offer feedback and/or suggestions via our email links. Also, remember to check our newsletter for the

latest PCC4U news and stories of interest. The site currently contains information about the:

- PCC4U project
- The PCC4U project team
- Contact information
- Latest news
- Copies of the PCC4U newsletters
- PCC4U documents
- PCC4U resources in a web format.

This site has also been created to provide a space for PCC4U users to network with one another and with potential new users. The PCC4U site will serve as a shared teaching website through a network of mentors to be created early in 2008.

How to access the PCC4U website

To access the new PCC4U website use the URL <http://www.pcc4u.org>. The site has also been built as a sister site to Caresearch.com.au and can be linked to from the 'quick links' on the Caresearch homepage.

Navigating the PCC4U Website

Use the 'Main Menu' on the left to navigate to the pages you wish to read. You may like to 'Register' with us to receive emailed updates and reminders regarding PCC4U. We are currently adding to the 'FAQ' section so if you do have any questions please call or email us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Caresearch team of Jennifer Tieman and Ruth Murton for their help in creating this website.

PCC4U Login Register
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PALLIATIVE CARE FOR UNDERGRADUATES (PCC4U)
A learning resource for health care students

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

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Welcome

Welcome to the website for the Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) Project. This website will give you up-to-date information on the PCC4U project including the aims, objectives and deliverables. If you are interested in Palliative Care, or the education of undergraduates in this area of practice, we hope that you will take the time to become familiar with the PCC4U Project through these web pages. This project could be applicable to you professionally or as a consumer, family member or volunteer, educator or trainer.

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The Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates Project is led by Queensland University of Technology in collaboration with the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education, Flinders University, and Charles Darwin University. The project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Announcements

Project Advisory Group Meeting
Project Advisory Group meeting
September 12th 1:00pm EST

August Newsletter - Monday, September 03, 2007
Newsletter now available
read more...

May Newsletter - Tuesday, July 24, 2007
May newsletter is now available.
read more...

Contact Information

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Implementation Site Reports

During 2007 the PCC4U resources were implemented into a number of nursing, medical and allied health courses in Australian universities. All sites that implemented the PCC4U teaching and learning resources completed a curriculum mapping exercise, tailored and incorporated selected palliative care undergraduate curriculum resources to fit their existing course structures. Gail Palmer has recently been interviewed about her experiences with the PCC4U resources and a feedback letter from Curtin University is also reproduced.

Interview with Gail Palmer USC

How did you find out about the PCC4U project and resources?

A colleague working in palliative care mentioned that it was available. Further conversation with university staff elicited that it had been posted to them and was available for use in teaching.

In what undergraduate course/s have you considered using the PCC4U resources?

The resources were used this year in semester 2 of the 2007 Bachelor of Nursing Science with second-year nursing students. Palliative care was taught as a component of the Continuing, Rehabilitative and Palliative Care Course.

Was palliative care in the course curriculum prior to this time, and how was it taught?

This is the first time that palliative care has been intentionally taught as a core

component of the nursing program. However, palliative care is included across courses within the nursing program.

What opportunities for the PCC4U resources do you see in the curriculum and what do you hope to achieve with your involvement?

The objectives of the palliative care component of the nursing course were reflected in the graduate capabilities in palliative care outlined in the Learning Resources Fact Sheet. The resource provided the nursing students with a general introduction to palliative care. Student learning covered the four modules of the resource.

How have the resources been implemented, and did you need to do any customisation?

The Modules, Links and Documents sections of the resources were loaded onto Blackboard, for students to use as background text.

If needed, what communication and support has been provided by the PCC4U team?

David was ever-willing to oblige in promoting the resource for use to our course students. He met face-to-face at the university with teaching staff to market and explained the advantage of using the resource within the curriculum. Dave was open to customising the resources to make it as student-friendly as technically possible. He has responded quickly to email and telephone queries to ensure I was familiar with using the application of the resource to Blackboard. Dave responded quickly to provide extra CD's for library shelves in anticipation that some students may wish to work their way through the learning using the resource in its original format.

Letter from Scott Sargant and Penny Tuffin Pharmacy Curtin

From Scott: Penny was able to take our fourth-year BPharm students through a two-hour tutorial to introduce some of the concepts specifically related to pharmacists and palliative care. While the students had already received lectures and tutorials on most of the medications involved, Penny was able to deliver both instruction and case studies looking at not only the pharmacotherapeutic issues relevant to the palliative care context, but some of the emotive and personal issues as well.

Penny: I used the three video sections from Module 1: Principles, which shows William's story. I thought it was excellent and really true to life. I used that as a basis to put into context some of my introduction and to discuss a couple of issues that I thought were important to community pharmacists, eg what was William's biggest concern, the necessity to have a whole team, what do we do when people don't want to take morphine etc? I would certainly include the video in any introduction presentation I was giving.

I didn't use more of the video mainly because of time constraints. The scenarios were all excellent and I could have used the video clips to engage the students in discussion about medications and symptom control but I would have used my own questions/activities to make it more specific to pharmacist needs. The example used for symptom control—breathlessness—and the way it was presented I felt was not helpful to pharmacists. I appreciate this is for all health professionals and it is an EXCELLENT package.

Scott: On the whole, we found the resources CD engaging and thought provoking. I have actually used one of the videos in a lecture relating to communication skills as a way of highlighting the need to have a variety of communication tools at your finger tips to help cope with a wide range of situations. Whilst it didn't focus on the palliative aspect, it certainly helped to hone the students' attention to the need for a broad range of good communication skills in pharmacy practice.

On behalf of my colleagues, we would like to congratulate you and the team on a fantastic set of resources. We feel this introduction, short though it was in our own curriculum due to time limitations, will give a greater confidence to our students in seeking further learning on the topic.

We look forward to being able to further utilise the information in the future and incorporate the materials into a range of learning opportunities.

Four core graduate capabilities

Four graduate capabilities have been identified as being integral for health professionals to provide a palliative approach to care for persons with a life-limiting illness:

1. Effective communication in the context of an individual's responses to loss and grief, existential challenges, uncertainty and changing goals of care
2. Appreciation of and respect for the diverse human and clinical responses of each individual throughout their illness trajectory
3. Understanding of principles for assessment and management of clinical and supportive care needs
4. The capacity for reflection and self-evaluation of one's professional and personal experiences and their cumulative impact on the self and others.

Where to from here?

Project Activities

- Promote ongoing networks and partnerships in undergraduate palliative care education
- Promotion of the new PCC4U website
- Mentors workshop planned for early 2008
- Planning for 2008 site visits
- Updating and extending the range of resources available through the project

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT, PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.pcc4u.org OR CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE PROJECT TEAM BY EMAIL mupccp@qut.edu.au