

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, 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.

Project Status

The project team enjoyed a well-earned break over the festive season but don't let the silence since the December newsletter fool you. In that time, we've conducted an online audit of universities implementing PCC4U resources, finding out how they have incorporated them in their curriculum and the impact they have had on programs.

Preliminary audit results will be available in the next newsletter.

The good news is that there's been such a strong uptake of the program that the PCC4U team has decided to accelerate its targets so that all universities will be invited to participate in project resources by the end of this calendar year.

It's going to be a busy year all round as we complete initial contacts with universities and start a round of workshops and seminars. This newsletter includes an implementation update and reports from Wendy Lee-Kyle from the University of the Southern Queensland and Jennifer Fitzgerald from the University of Queensland.

The PCC4U team convenes in Brisbane on 7 March to continue planning for 2008–2009. Members will attend a number of conferences this year to promote palliative care in undergraduate curriculum and the implementation of the PCC4U resources. Please look for our booth. The team will also be conducting a series of workshops aimed at incorporating palliative care in the undergraduate curriculum, at improving skills in palliative care teaching and a series of information sessions for universities and industry.

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 program 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. During this period the team will be conducting a series of workshops aimed at palliative care in the undergraduate curriculum, at improving skills in palliative care teaching, and a series of information sessions for universities and industry. If you would like the team to schedule any or all of the sessions for you do not hesitate to email us at mupccp@qut.edu.au.

Number of universities invited in 2007	Courses	Invited
18	99	99

Number of universities to be invited for 2008	Courses	Invited
21	92	92

Summary of Uptake:

- More than 50 per cent of courses invited are reviewing the PCC4U resources, and
- Of this group more than 50 per cent have indicated they are currently implementing the resources.

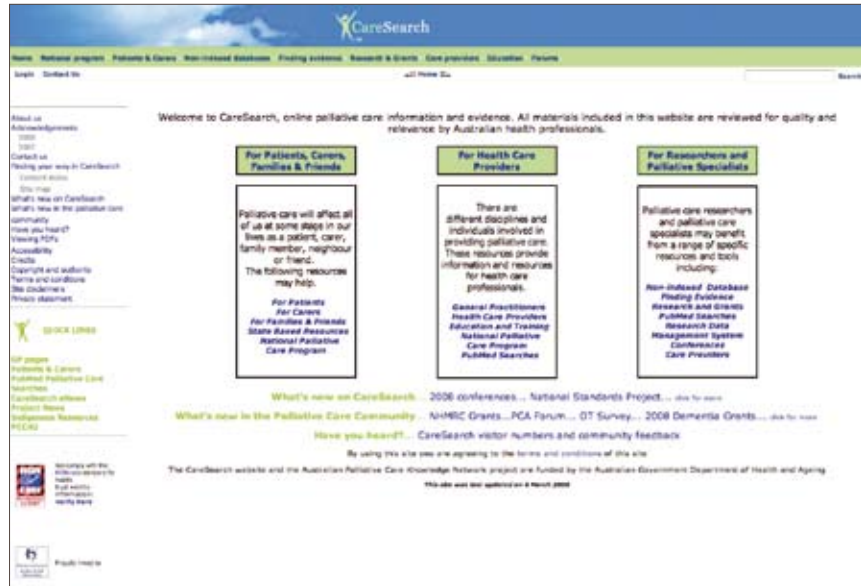
Project in Brief

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.

Website Update

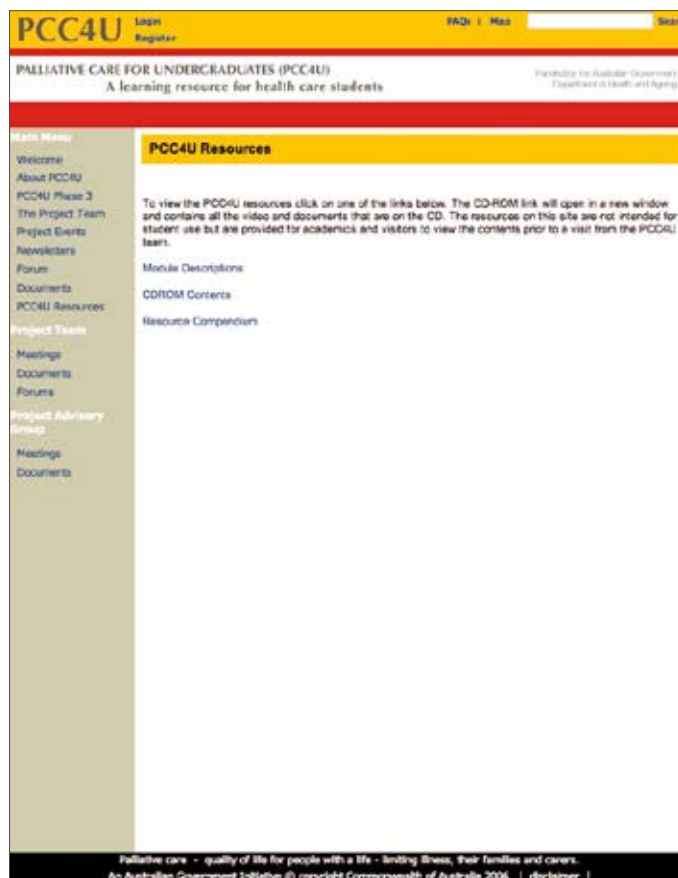
The PCC4U website

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](http://www.caresearch.com.au) and can be linked to from the 'quick links' on the Caresearch home page www.caresearch.com.au/home/Default.aspx.



If you wish to view the PCC4U resources they can be accessed from the PCC4U home page by clicking on 'PCC4U Resources' and then 'CD-ROM Contents' (see below). Please note these resources are provided for review only and are not intended for student use.

www.caresearch.com.au/home/pcc4u/Home/LearningCentre/tabid/728/Default.aspx



Implementation Site Reports

During 2007 the PCC4U resources were implemented in 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.

Implementation report from the University of Southern Queensland – Nursing

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

Three Nursing academics from our Department of Nursing and Midwifery attended the QUT launch of the resource material for PCC4U in 2006 and brought back two packages for the department. In March 2007, after my enquiry regarding information re implementation of the PCC4U resources, I received an update from David, who had just taken over as Project Manager for the Palliative Care Program for Undergraduates. David also visited us at the Toowoomba campus in April 2007, to showcase the resources, and offer some suggestions as to its implementation.

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

The resources were used in 2007 in the new Bachelor of Nursing in Semester 2, within the second year course, NUR2500 Nursing Older People, on both the Toowoomba and Fraser Coast campuses.

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

Palliative care has been addressed

previously across courses within the old BN program, but not with a specific focus.

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

The resources are available to all nursing students in the library, but also to students within other University programs. The interactive CD-ROM provides an excellent self-directed learning package for all students.

The resources have the capacity to be implemented within many of the nursing courses within the BN. There are sound opportunities to interweave the resources within these courses, with the aim of informing the nursing students of the core values underpinning palliative care, and the graduate capabilities as outlined within the resource document, 'Principles for Including Palliative Care in undergraduate curriculum' 5.0, page 7 & 6.0, page 8. This is an evolving process.

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

The course, Nursing Older People, includes a Palliative Care workshop, in which the resources on the DVD, including some of the video clips and case studies, were used to promote class discussion regarding Palliative care issues. The resource, 'Principles for inclusion of a palliative approach to aged care in undergraduate nursing curricula,' was of particular value and the principles were used to inform content of the workshop. Some of the objectives for the workshop were drawn from Benchmark 2, page 22 of the document. The Palliative Care Resource Kit has been placed in the University libraries in Toowoomba and Fraser Coast so that students have access to them, to use, not only in NUR2500, but also within other nursing courses.

Feedback from students was that they found the resources very helpful. Comments from students included that they had not been aware of how specialised this area of care

was and that there was so much that could be done for a person experiencing an illness in its final stages. Indeed, it was this workshop that was partly the inspiration for some students to choose to complete one of their clinical placements at a hospice.

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

When I needed any information, David was always available and ready to respond to my questions and to my requests for extra resource kits.

Implementation report from the University of Queensland – Medicine

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

I was invited by Dr Geoff Mitchell to participate in the trial of the PCC4U material for medical students in 2006.

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

We use portions of the PCC4U material in Year 2 of the UQ medical program. Specifically, our clinical communication skills program focuses one class on communicating in a palliative care setting.

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

Yes, communicating in a PC setting was taught using information sheets, role plays and small group discussion. Geoff Mitchell also teaches a module in Year 3 when students are on a General Practice rotation.

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

I will continue to use pieces of the communication module of PCC4U.

Areas for further development are professionals' responses that were so truncated (probably time related) they came across as rather blunt and thus did not offer a model of empathic, patient-centred communication skills. The students were confused about what were skills to copy, and what should be avoided, but the actors are excellent and they provide a good starting point for discussion and skill development in medical students.

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

David Emmett has been very helpful in adapting the material to provide us with a short DVD that shows the pieces of PCC4U that I elected to use. Feedback from our students has indicated that some of the communication module is confusing and not helpful. David has been great in adapting the material to suit our students' needs.

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
- Promote the new PCC4U website
- Planning for Project Team workshop in 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