

# Bridging the gap: Integrating evidence-based resources in clinician training and education

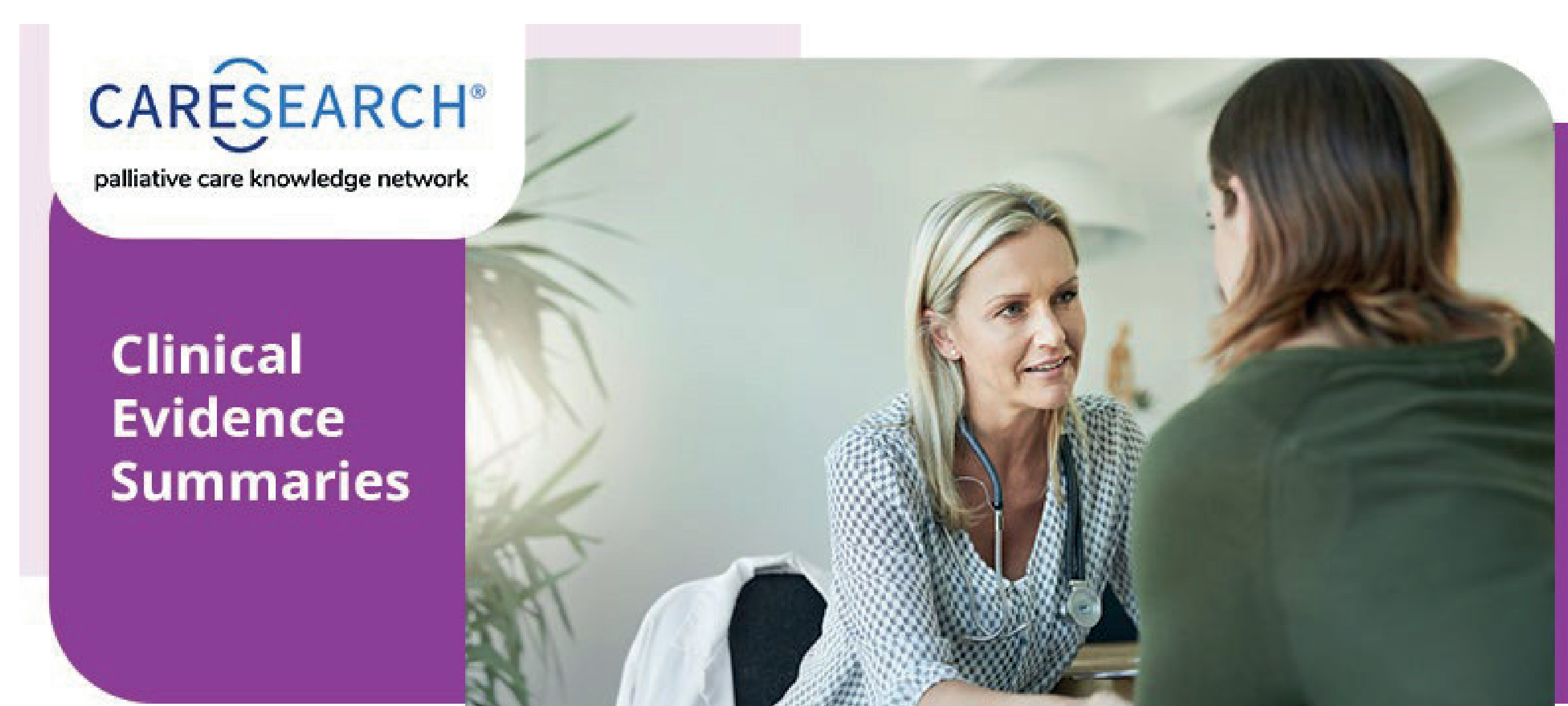
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## Background

Evidence-based resources are vital for developing workforce knowledge and informing practice in palliative and end-of-life care. Yet educators who train emerging clinicians often face barriers when integrating evidence into teaching materials.

The CareSearch project produces Clinical Evidence Summaries for the palliative care sector in Australia. These summaries provide information found in systematic reviews that has been formally appraised and collated to summarise the best available evidence relevant to palliative care professional and clinical practice topics. The content was developed and reviewed by a multidisciplinary advisory group of Australian health professionals to ensure its quality and relevance.



## Study Aims

Understanding the experiences of educators will help improve access to evidence-based training resources, therefore building workforce capability and ensuring high-quality care for palliative patients.

The study aimed to a) understand how palliative care clinical and academic educators value and use clinical evidence in education resources and teaching practice, and b) to elicit their attitudes and experiences of using CareSearch Clinical Evidence Summaries in their teaching curriculum.

## Methods

The evaluation comprised:

- National surveys of academic educators (n=18) and National Palliative Care Project (NPCP) personnel (n=29)
- Semi-structured interviews with 15 specialist palliative care educators.

This multi-methods study utilised purposive sampling across rural, metropolitan, and regional locations. Participants varied in discipline, role, and years of experience.

Data collection included surveys (n = 47) and qualitative in-depth interviews (n = 15). Survey data were analysed with descriptive statistics and content analysis. Interviews were coded in NVivo and analysed with thematic content analysis.

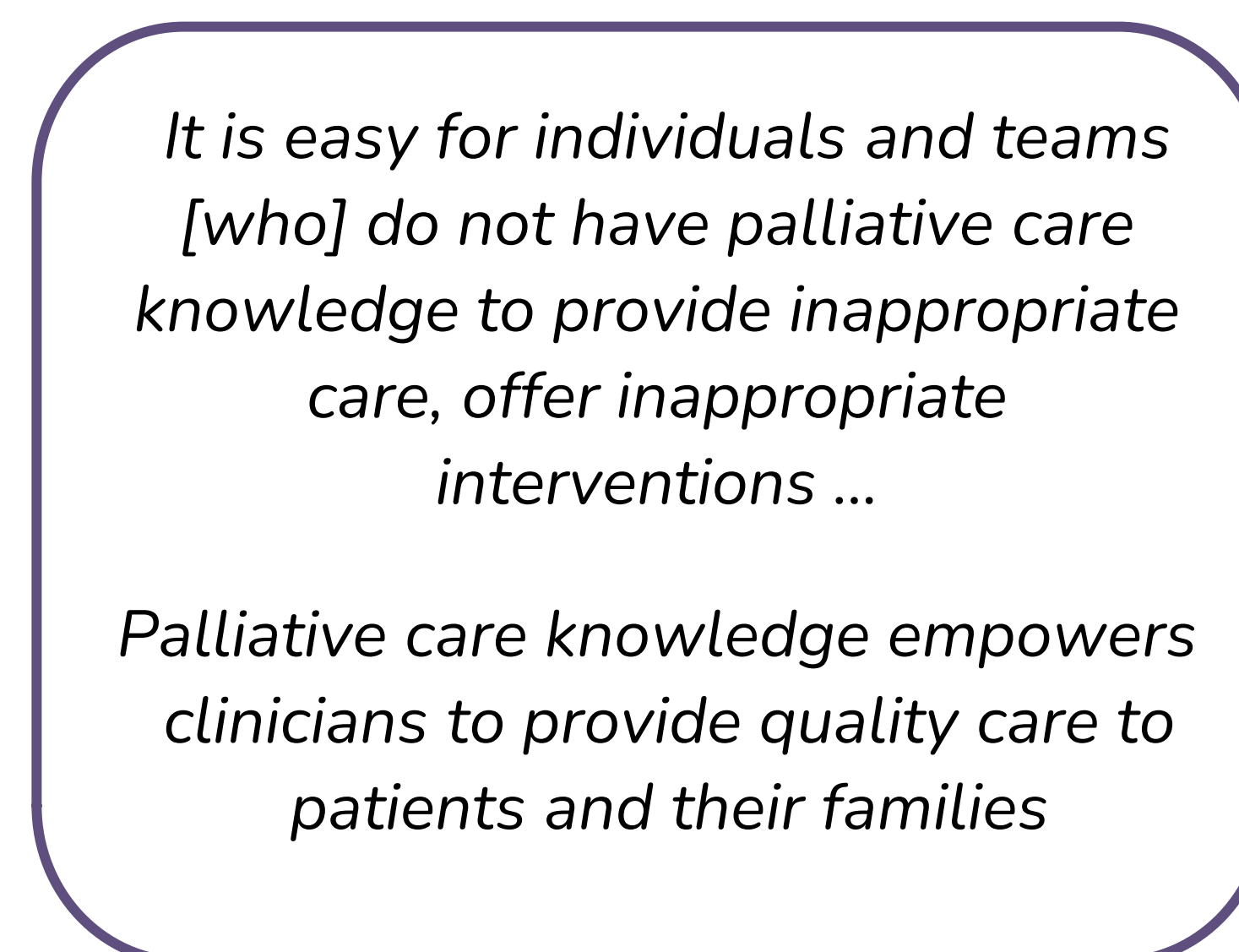
## Key Findings

Across all educator groups including those delivering national projects, evidence-based resources are regarded as essential for preparing and supporting clinicians and improving care quality.

This resource was widely recognised as valuable and trusted, particularly for educators and clinicians seeking synthesised, accessible evidence.

Three core themes were constructed from surveys and interviews:

- Theme 1 highlighted the centrality of evidence in specialist palliative care evidence with evidence being seen as both an essential catalyst and a nuanced evolving influence.
- Theme 2 identified evidence challenges in clinical practice and education key challenges included availability, accessibility and currency.
- Theme 3 addressed the role and value of CareSearch. The Clinical Evidence Summaries were recognised for their clarity, accessibility and practical utility.



## Discussion & Implications

This evaluation shows that CareSearch continues to play a pivotal role in supporting evidence-informed education and practice across Australia's palliative care sector. The Clinical Evidence Summaries are recognised for their credibility, accessibility, and practical utility.

However, considerations and opportunities were also identified:

- **Awareness and visibility:** Not all educators and clinicians are familiar with CareSearch or its full suite of offerings, limiting its reach and uptake.
- **Foundational relevance and depth:** While valued as a foundational resource, specialist or advanced practitioners may need greater depth or more tailored content for complex clinical scenarios.
- **Integration into education:** Opportunities exist to further embed CareSearch resources into curricula, learning resources, professional networks, and ongoing workforce development.