



FROM THE WEBSITE

2016 Projects

In 2016, a number of CareSearch projects will be completed and several changes will be made to the website.

My Learning

We are revising and updating the look of the My Learning modules. They will still focus on helping health professionals find out how to use CareSearch resources in their clinical practice. A new presentation format will make the content more accessible. We hope to have these modules ready for users by mid-March.

Education Hub (including Whole of Workforce Framework)

We have been working with the Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative (incorporating PEPA and PCC4U) who are developing a Whole of Workforce Framework and will be including this framework into our updating of the Education section of CareSearch. We will continue to provide direct links to well-used resources such as the conference listing and information on university courses will include information about the framework and using it to inform education and training choices. If you would like to receive information on the redevelopment or assist in user testing of the revised site, email us at caresearch@flinders.edu.au. The revised hub will be available by mid-2016.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Hub

We have just appointed a Research Associate who will be working on the development of this Hub. If you have suggestions for useful resources for health professionals providing palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, email us at caresearch@flinders.edu.au

MOOC

Plans for the MOOC content are well underway. We have identified the platform we will be using and have been looking at resources and activities to promote engagement and learning. This MOOC will be open to anyone and will look at death and dying in Australia. It will explore many different perspectives from representations in art and literature to the role of humour to digital legacies. The course will start in early June.

Palliative Perspectives

[CareSearch Blog: Palliative Perspectives](#) has been established to provide Australian health professionals with a place where they can read posts from their peers across the health professions, particularly those with expertise and an interest in palliative care. The following new blogs from guest health bloggers have been uploaded:

- [The End-of-Life Clinical Audit - a GP's experience](#)
A guest blog post from Dr David Healey, B Med, MPaLIC, FRACGP
- [Fitting the pieces together: Completing the big picture puzzle of a coherent end-of-life care system for all](#)
A guest post from Dr Chris Moy, General Practitioner, Parkside, SA

ALLIEDhealth[HUB]news - January 2016

The [January 2016 edition](#) (496kb pdf) of the Allied Health newsletter is now available.

Engaging with other projects

EoL Essentials

CareSearch is working with staff from the Discipline of Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University in developing learning modules based on the proposed [Australian Commission on Quality Safety Health Care Consensus Statements on End of Life Care in Acute Hospital](#). The modules will deal with a number of core topics including

- Patient-centred communication and shared decision making
- Team work and coordination of care
- Components of care
- Using triggers to help recognise patients approaching the end of life
- Responding to concerns.

palliAGEDnurse

CareSearch is also working with the [Decision Assist program](#) and will be releasing a second smartphone app, palliAGEDnurse in April/May this year. This will be a companion to the palliAGED app designed to support GPs providing palliative care to older Australians living in the community or in residential aged care.

CareSearch Review Collection

Eleven reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection in December and a further five were added in January. They included:

- Dixon J, Matosevic T, Knapp M. [The economic evidence for advance care planning: Systematic review of evidence](#). Palliat Med. 2015 Dec;29(10):869-84. This review looked at the economic evidence on advance care planning. No published cost-effectiveness studies were found and the authors argued that there was a need to describe the mechanisms by which ACP could reduce care costs and also to ensure that indirect costs and costs associated with substitute care were included in studies.
- Wittenberg-Lyles E, Parker Oliver D, Demiris G, Swarz J, Rendo M. [YouTube as a tool for pain management with informal caregivers of cancer patients: a systematic review](#). J Pain Symptom Manage. 2014 Dec;48(6): 1200-10. Epub 2014 Apr 30. This review explored the availability and characteristics of instructional cancer pain management videos for carers held on YouTube. Forty three videos were included in the analysis. The authors noted that most videos were intended for clinical audiences and few addressed specific carer pain management barriers.
- Large S, Slinger R. [Grief in caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia: a qualitative synthesis](#). Dementia (London). 2015 Mar;14(2):164-83. Epub 2013 Jul 11. Grief in carers of people with dementia was the subject of this review. The meta-synthesis identified six themes: challenges of caregiving, losses and changes in the relationship, the role of dementia in grief, striving despite dementia, utilising social support and death as a relief from caregiving.
- Devery K, Rawlings D, Tieman J, Damarell R. [Deathbed phenomena reported by patients in palliative care: clinical opportunities and responses](#). Int J Palliat Nurs. 2015 Mar;21(3):117-25. The literature on deathbed phenomena (DBP) was reviewed to identify and provide suggestions for a clinical response to dying patients' recounts of these hard-to-explain phenomena. Eight papers were included in the review. The authors noted that DBP was not uncommon and highlighted the importance of recognition of the experience and appropriate clinical responses.
- Mücke M; Mochamat, Cuhls H, Peuckmann-Post V, Minton O, Stone P, et al. [Pharmacological treatments for fatigue associated with palliative care](#). Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2015 May 30;5:CD006788. For palliative care patients' fatigue can be severely debilitating and is not necessarily counteracted with rest, thereby impacting daily activity and quality of life. This review looks at the efficacy of pharmacological treatments for fatigue in palliative care. Forty five studies met the inclusion criteria providing data on 18 drugs and 4,696 participants. The authors noted that fatigue research in palliative care seems to focus on modafinil and methylphenidate, that the evidence base is still limited and that consensus is needed for the appropriate outcome parameters for trials.

CareSearch Grey Literature

This dataset includes abstracts of Australian 'grey' literature relevant to palliative care. They provide access to work in progress, areas of reflection and development, as well as work that may not be published in traditional avenues. The following abstracts are from the Research Studies Register.

- Connell, Simone; Lobb, Elizabeth. Bereavement Counselling Outcome Assessment Tool (The BOAT Study)
- Sesta, Paula; Lobb, Elizabeth; Dawson, Helen; Splitt, Mercy. Calvary Hoarding and Squalor Project
- Maltby, Kirstin; Phillips, Jane; Lobb, Elizabeth; Sanderson, Christine. The SAC Study – Sleep in Australian caregivers: Evaluating the sleep disturbances of adults caring for a person living with advanced cancer in the community.

To access these abstracts or other items from the [CareSearch Grey Literature](#), enter the author's name, the abstract title, or search terms that describe your interest.

WHATS NEW IN THE COMMUNITY?

Painaustralia 2016-2020 Strategic Plan

Painaustralia has released a [new strategic plan](#) (591kb pdf) providing a framework for achieving better treatment and quality of life for people with pain and their families, and minimising the burden of pain treatment on individuals and the community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health performance framework 2014 report

[This report](#) gives the latest information on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia are faring according to a range of measures of health status and outcomes, determinants of health and health system performance. Indicators are based on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework. The report highlights the main areas of improvement and continuing concern.

Dementia Grants

The Dementia Collaborative Research Centres are seeking [grant applications](#) from researchers, health professionals and policymakers for national funding for 2015-16, for small, medium and large projects to be completed by 30 June 2017.

New Partnership Centre Opportunity

NHMRC has opened a request for [Partnership Centre Applications](#) to establish a new NHMRC Partnership Centre: Health System Sustainability.

New principles for accessing publicly funded data for the purpose of health research

NHMRC has developed [important guidance](#) in consultation with national data custodians, health researchers and consumer representatives. The Principles aim to ensure that the variety of publicly funded Australian data are appropriately accessed and used to improve health outcomes through quality research.

Palliative Care Online training

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association has re-launched the [Palliative Care Online Training Portal](#) with two new training modules on pain management and recognising deteriorating patients.

Public forum to help with end of life challenges

A free public forum, hosted by the Centre for Palliative Care, is aiming to make those conversations easier. The forum is called, Death Happens! So let's talk about how we die. Registrations are required for the free forum, which will be held at Deakin Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne, on Tuesday, February 23. Book your place via www.centreforpallcare.org.

CONFERENCES

There are plenty of interesting conferences being held in Australia in the first six months of 2016. Great opportunities to learn and network.

March

- [12th Annual Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium](#)
March 3
Sydney, New South Wales
- [APS Conference](#)
March 13-16
Perth, Western Australia
- [3rd International Primary Health Care Reform Conference](#)
March 14-16
Brisbane, Queensland

April

- [World Indigenous Cancer Conference 2016](#)
April 12-14
Brisbane, Queensland

May

- [CPCRE Annual Research Conference](#)
May 6
Brisbane, Queensland
- [CNSA 19th Congress Bridging the Gap](#)
May 12-14
Cairns, Queensland
- [RACP Annual Congress](#)
May 16-18
Adelaide, South Australia
- [National Medicines Symposium 2016](#)
May 18-20
Canberra, ACT
- South Australian Palliative Care Conference
May 27
Adelaide, South Australia

June

- [ANZSGM Annual Scientific Meeting 2016](#)
June 1-3
Cairns, Queensland
- [PHC Research Conference](#)
June 8-9
Canberra, ACT
- [2016 International Dementia Conference](#)
June 16-17
Sydney, New South Wales
- [IFA 13th Global Conference](#)
June 21-23
Brisbane, Queensland
- [MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting on Supportive Care In Cancer](#)
June 23-25
Adelaide, South Australia
- [Active Ageing Conference](#)
June 30
Sydney, New South Wales

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities. There are materials for many different groups and purposes:

- [Health professionals](#)
- [Consumers, patients, families, and friends](#)
- [Learning to use CareSearch](#)

You can view all the [CareSearch promotional resources](#) on the website and download an order form. All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to caresearch@flinders.edu.au

Don't forget you can follow what is happening on [Twitter](#) or you can join us on [CareSearch LinkedIn](#).

If you are faxing promotional orders to us, our fax number is (08) 7221 8238.

March 2016 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in March 2016. If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

