Introduction

Two National Palliative Care Program projects are working collaboratively to ensure evidence based approaches are integrated into health professional education.

Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) promotes the inclusion of palliative care education as an integral part of undergraduate and entry to practice health professional training, and ongoing professional development.

CareSearch, Palliative Care Knowledge Network, is an online resource of palliative care information and evidence that can support educational activities and ongoing professional development.

Approaches

The collaboration between PCC4U and CareSearch enables a diverse set of approaches that facilitates access to, and use of, palliative care evidence at two levels:

- individual learning as a professional responsibility, including initial training and continuing professional development (CPD)
- system and service level learning.

Outcomes

Health professional education is a significant mechanism for moving evidence into practice. By using a knowledge network to underpin educational development there are demonstrated benefits for life-long learning:

Undergraduate students - experience in using evidence as a key part of learning/ exposure to translating research into practice.

Health educators and clinicians - exposure to the CareSearch knowledge network/ capacity building to translate knowledge and evidence into practice/benefits for continuing professional development.

This modelling of the translation of palliative care education and evidence into practice is essential for all healthcare students.

Conclusion

Evidence based practice remains an influential framework for initial and ongoing clinician training. In particular, the capacity building aspects of translating knowledge and evidence into practice can be enhanced by aligning messages and sharing resources. This increases reach and reinforces key messages.

Contact: pcc4u@qut.edu.au or caresearch@flinders.edu.au

© QUT 2013