

CareSearch: Enabling access to Australia's palliative care literature

Currow DC, Abernethy AP,
Tieman JJ & Fazekas BS



Palliative Care Australia 2005



What is the problem?

Palliative care is an emerging specialty

- Lack of palliative evidence
- Best available evidence
- Multidisciplinary base
- Difficulties in accessing relevant information easily
- Improving uptake of evidence and knowledge

Working out answers

Evidence based (Palliative Care) project began in 2001 funded by Department of Health and Ageing

Aims:

- To identify and collate Australia's missing palliative care literature
- To make it accessible
- To promote EBP

Phase 1: Collecting the missing literature

- Identifying sources of missing literature
 - Conference abstracts, non-indexed journal articles, theses, “grey” literature
- Approaching organisations and agencies
- Reviewing for inclusion
- Collating, storing and indexing citations
- Evaluating conference abstracts

Phase 2: Developing the CareSearch website

- Building literature databases
- Creating an online evaluation system
- Designing a user management system
- Identifying and modifying a survey system to build an online research data management system

CareSearch website

Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Repatriation General Hospital - Da

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Print Links

Address <http://www.caresearch.com.au/minigen/default.asp?action=showContent&contentID=72> Go

CareSearch

Literature Database Search Strategies In Palliative Care Research Service Models & Clinical Practice Resources

Home Page

Welcome to CareSearch!!

CareSearch is being developed as an electronic resource for palliative care researchers and clinical specialists providing care for people with a life limiting illness.

FINDING THE LITERATURE

Visitors can search our **anthology of unpublished literature** on palliative care dating from 1980 to the present. CareSearch visitors can also learn about and **search the**

GENERATING THE EVIDENCE

CareSearch offers a **research area** providing access to facilities and resources, including a **multi-site research platform**

SUPPORTING THE EVIDENCE

A number of resources are offered to researchers, clinicians, planners and administrators to **support practice** in palliative care and to **keep up to date with news**

Start | Inbox -... | NRG U... | Micros... | oral | Micros... | Home ... | Micros... | 12:44 PM

Phase 3: Building awareness of it's roles in

- finding evidence
- generating evidence
- supporting practice

Considerations

- Target audience is palliative clinicians, educators and researchers
- Website as an interface

Finding the evidence

- CareSearch databases
- PubMed searches
- Searching efficiently and effectively
- Specialist websites and databases

CareSearch literature databases

- Conference Abstracts (n = 2063)
- Non-indexed journal articles (n = 475)
- Theses (n = 80)
- “Grey” literature (n = 105)

Searchable by author, year, keyword.

CareSearch literature database screen

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Search The Literature Database - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Repatriation General Hospital - Da". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.caresearch.com.au/Search.aspx". The page content includes a navigation menu on the left with links for Home, Main Menu, About Us, Help, Log In, News Letters, Feedback Survey, Site Map, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Search The Literature Database" and contains the following text:

Search the Literature Database
The literature database comprises four sections:

- Journal articles: Abstracts of articles from 12 palliative care journals that have not been indexed in the major electronic databases
- Conference abstracts: Abstracts from Australian conferences from 1980 that deal with issues in palliative care
- Theses: Masters and PhD theses from Australian universities that deal with issues in palliative care
- Grey Literature: Government documents, policy and research reports from agencies involved with palliative care.

Below the list is a search form with the following fields and options:

Literature ID:

Keywords Or Phrases: **Boolean Logic:**

Fields To Search: Title Author Abstract Keywords ALL

Order By: Date Author AbstractID Title

Publication Year: **From:** **To:**

Type Of Literature:

The taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications: Inbox, NRG U..., Micros..., oral, Searc..., and Micros... The system tray on the right shows the time as 1:22 PM.

Search strategies

PubMed topic searches (eg dyspnoea, advance directives)

- Online NLM entry
- Options for SR, RCT, free full text
- Automatically updates with new articles

Searching in Ovid Medline

CareSearch PubMed Screen

Search Strategies (PubMed) - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Repatriation General Hospital - Da

Address <http://www.caresearch.com.au/minigen/default.asp?contentID=58>

Contact Us

Search Topic	Retrieve References	Retrieve References Restricting to Free Full Text Only	Systematic Reviews Only ¹	RCTs Only ²
Advance Directives	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific
Bereavement	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific
Dyspnoea	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific
Euthanasia	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific
Pain	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific
Resuscitation Orders	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific
Terminal Care	Sensitive	Sensitive	SR	Sensitive
	Specific	Specific		Specific

Start | Inb... - M... | NRG Upd... | Microsoft ... | oral | Search S... | Microsoft ... | 1:17 PM

Generating evidence

- Contributing to literature/systematic reviews
- Online research data management system
- Identifying gaps
- Project research

Research data management system

- Online design of forms and questionnaires
- Web-based and email-based form completion
- Data entry from multiple sites with a single co-ordinating site
- Basic reporting of results with features such as percentages, graphs, and tables
- Export of data to other programs such as Excel, Access or SPSS

Sample style and format

Sample style Questions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Repatriation General Hospital - Da

Date of Completion
dd/mm/yy
 12

*** What age group do you fall into?**
(Please select one from the list)
Select

*** What is the Patient ID?**
The ID assigned to the Patient for this survey

Checklist

	Checklist	
	Yes	No
Have all inclusion criteria been met?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have all exclusion criteria been ticked as No?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has consent form been signed?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the gas supplier been contacted?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part B

Start | Inbox -... | NRG U... | Micros... | oral | CareSe... | Micros... | Sampl... | 1:14 PM

CareSearch research

- Validating search filters for use in the general literature
- Publication rates of conference presentation
- Variable indexing of palliative articles in bibliographic databases

Supporting Practice

- Service models and clinical practice
- Research reports and posters
- "Hot Picks"
- Conference details
- Weblinks
- CareSearch eNews

Project Outcomes

- Over 2 600 items have been collected and are held in four databases
- Nearly 3 000 visits to the website each month
- Around 60 000 hits per month
- 500 subscribers to the CareSearch eNews
- First article published

Coming soon

- Literature databases (Expanding to include non-indexed Australian Journal articles)
- Evidence based practice (Expanding search strategies with critical appraisal, EBP tools and links)
- Research (Expanding to include grants and a directory of projects)
- Patient care (Expanded section with two sections - Service issues and clinical topics)
- Education and training (New section with links to formal and informal education activities)
- Resources (SIGs, assessment tools)

Supporting CareSearch

- Use the site
- Provide us with feedback and ideas
- Help us evaluate conference abstracts
- Provide missing literature
- Tell your colleagues about the website

www.caresearch.com.au

Available now

Free to access

Acknowledgements

- **National Reference Group**

Dr Amy Abernethy, Prof Sanchia Aranda, Prof David Currow, Mr Steve Dunlop, Ms Rita Evans, Dr Paul Glare, Prof Carol Grbich, Ms Meryl Horsell, Prof Linda Kristjanson, Assoc Prof Geoff Mitchell, Prof Paddy Phillips, Dr Odette Spruyt, Prof Patsy Yates

- **Project Team and specialist contributors**

Prof David Currow, Dr Amy Abernethy, Ms Belinda Fazekas, Ms Ruth Sladek, Mr Timothy Butler, Ms Harshini Carey, Ms Stella Nall, Dr Meera Agar, Dr Philip Good

- **Department of Health and Ageing**

Direct costs of the CareSearch project have been covered through a grant from the Australian Department of Health and Ageing.

- **Morton Blacketer and CDAA**