Currow DC, Abernethy AP, Tieman JJ & Fazekas BS
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
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 is being developed as an electronic resource for palliative care researchers and clinical specialists providing care for people with a life limiting illness.
Phase 3: Building awareness of its 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.

Palliative Care Australia 2005
CareSearch literature database screen

Search The Literature Database

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 1983 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

Literature ID: [ ] Search

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: [ ]
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
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Palliative Care Australia 2005
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 Questions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Repatriation General Hospital - Da

**Date of Completion**

ddmmyy

**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**

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<td>Have all exclusion criteria been ticked as No?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has consent form been signed?</td>
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<td>Has the gas supplier been contacted?</td>
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**Part B**

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Palliative Care Australia 2005
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

Palliative Care Australia 2005
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
Available now

Free to access
Acknowledgements

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