Knowledge Networks: Recognising Communities of Practice

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Management of Knowledge

- Exponential growth in volume of materials being produced
- Changing technologies as to how materials are published and accessed
- Issues around evaluating the knowledge
Specific Issues in Palliative Care

- Role of evidence
- Nature of interdisciplinary team in providing holistic care
- Family as the unit of care
- Diversity of care settings
What is meant by a community of practice?

- Domain: the area of knowledge that brings the community together
- Community: the group of people for whom the domain is relevant
- Practice: the body of knowledge that members share and develop together
A Knowledge Network for palliative care recognises that palliative care is a Community of Practice where members share a domain, community and practice.
More than one community of practice?

- Nature of where they work or who they serve such as paediatric palliative care, aged care or community care
- Type of discipline base or care focus such as volunteers, complementary therapists, social workers etc
Using a Knowledge Network to support the community of practice

- Access to appropriate resources and tools
- Mechanisms to support interaction and communication
- Capacity to build knowledge through research
- Assist in translating knowledge into practice
Types of resources and facilities that could be included

- Clinical resources such as clinical guidelines, literature databases
- Training and education resources
- Communication forums such as listservers, bulletin boards, sigs,
- Links to evaluated websites and electronic resources

The situation of Mount Lofty was found from hence and from some other cross bearings, to be 34° 59' south and 138° 42' east. No land was visible so far to the north as where the trees appeared above the horizon, which showed the coast to be very low, and our soundings were fast decreasing.

From noon to six o'clock we ran thirty miles to the northward, skirting a sandy shore at the distance of five, and thence to eight miles; the depth was then 5 fathoms, and we dropped the anchor upon a bottom of sand, mixed with pieces of dead coral.
Types of resources and facilities that could be included cont’d

• Directories of resources, services and organisations
• Online patient and carer support groups and support information
• Research and practice tools and resources
The Knowledge Network (Palliative Care) Project

- Investigation into whether a Knowledge Network in palliative care would be useful, feasible and cost effective.
- Funded by the Department of Health and Ageing
- Project due to be completed by December 2004
Process for investigation

- Knowledge Network Management Group
- Needs analysis
- Mapping of Australian websites
- Review and evaluation of electronic sites and networks
- Literature review
- Specific investigations: financial, governance, legal, marketing, risk and sustainability.
For further information on the Knowledge Network Project

- Visit the CareSearch website for project updates at www.caresearch.com.au
- Email the Project Manager at Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au
- Register for the Project News
- Speak to one of the project team or a member of the Knowledge Network Management Group