

Knowledge Networks: Recognising Communities of Practice

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2nd National Palliative Care
Education Conference 13-14 May

2004

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



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

