



Views and experiences of allied health professionals about palliative care: Results of a National Survey

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Background:

Palliative care is provided by different health professionals in different settings, individually and as part of multidisciplinary care teams. Allied Health Professionals' (AHP) contributions are essential in palliative care.

CareSearch

(www.caresearch.com.au) is an online evidence based palliative care resource that hosts a hub of information and resources targeted specifically for Allied Health Professionals.



Objectives:

1. To find out about AHP current palliative care caseloads and where they currently access information on palliative care
2. To understand Allied health professionals palliative care education, clinical information and knowledge needs

Methods:

An online survey was distributed in collaboration with Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) to understand AHP views about palliative care, of its relevance to their practice, and of their palliative care clinical information and education needs. HREC (No 7014).

Results:

1. **How many patients / clients / families with palliative care needs do you estimate that you have provided care to in the last 12 months?** (n=125)
 - None (n=20/ 16%)
 - >15 (n=105 / 84%)

Where do you find palliative care information / evidence? (n=142, gave >1 answer)

- Databases, Journals, EBP (n=82)
- Online –peak bodies, pall care websites (n=48)
- CareSearch (n=28)
- Colleagues, peers, supervisors (n=37)
- Pall Care team (n=11) external to own work

Results:

2. Where do you look for information when faced with a difficult clinical case? (n=155, > 1 answer)

- 85% (n= 131) mentioned colleagues, peers, supervisors, specialists.

Do you feel that you need additional education in order to assist you in your care of palliative care patients? (n=168)

- 67% (n=113) said yes, with information on non-malignant disease the most popular.

Conclusion

AHP's caseloads will often include palliative care patients. There are implications for Palliative Care in provision of evidence based resources, education and CPD opportunities. CareSearch can help to address many of these needs.