**Study Title:** ‘Decision-making frameworks in advanced dementia: links to improved care’.

**Brief description of the study:** Previous research undertaken by Chang et al has revealed the need to provide infrastructure and decision-making support to nurses in residential aged care facilities to improve care for people with advanced dementia. In particular, four symptoms - pain, constipation, weight loss and agitation/confusion diminish the quality of life of the person with advanced dementia, and cause distress to their carers. This project will use action research to develop, implement and evaluate decision-making frameworks for nurses and professional carers, based on best-practice evidence or expert opinion, which nurses can use to alleviate the symptoms and improve the care of people with advanced dementia.

**Study Methodology:** (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epidemiology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive</td>
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<td>x Mixed Method</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systematic Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intervention: RCT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intervention: Comparative or cohort study</td>
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<td>Intervention: Case series</td>
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</tbody>
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**Project details:**

- **Funding source (Optional):** Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Local Palliative Care Grant Funding Round Three.
- **Has the study received ethics approval?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
- **Project starting date:** May 2006
- **Project completion date:** April 2009

- **Multi site:**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable

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- **Investigator D (Name):** Professor John Daly
- **Investigator E (Name):** Ms Amanda Johnson
- **Investigator F (Name):** Assoc. Prof Trish Davidson

**Associated publications / reports:**

**Topics:** Dementia, Aged Care facility