**Study Title:** Group education program for family caregivers of home based palliative care patients

**Brief description of the study:**
The fundamental aim of palliative care is to achieve the best quality of life possible for dying patients and for their families. Assisting the family is a key aspect of the palliative care philosophy with both patient and family construed as the ‘unit of care’. The family commonly play a central role in home-based palliative care, undertaking tasks such as symptom assessment and management, personal care and administering medications. Most palliative care patients want to be cared for at home and family caregivers provide the majority of the support needed. Without this contribution the well-being of most patients in palliative care would be compromised. This project seeks to prepare primary family caregivers for the role of supporting a relative/friend with advanced cancer by offering a group education program. Given that there is a dearth of research related to group education programs for this population it would be imperative to also evaluate the utility and applicability of the program in addition to its efficacy.

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

- Epidemiology
- Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
- Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
- **X** Mixed Method
- Systematic Review
- Intervention: RCT
- Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
- Intervention: Case series

**Project details**

- **Funding source (Optional):** Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation
- **Has the study received ethics approval?** Yes
- Project starting date: April 2006
- Project completion date: April 2008
- **Multi site:** Yes

**RESEARCHERS**

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<th>Investigator E (Name)</th>
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<td>Investigator F (Name)</td>
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<td>Investigator H (Name)</td>
<td>Mark Cockayne</td>
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**Associated publications / reports:**


**Topics:** Caregivers, Cancer and Cancer Care, Education and Training