

CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0078
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Study Title: Palliative care Needs Assessment Program: Dissemination of the Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease – Cancer (NAT: PD-C)

Brief description of the study:

This project is Phase 5 of a 6-phase program of work to reduce the incidence of late and crisis referral to specialist palliative care services (SPCSs) and improve referral where psychological, social, physical and spiritual problems are evident. The Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and the Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease-Cancer (NAT:PD-C) were developed to assist health professionals in linking the unmet needs of individuals to best practice standards and referral pathways in order to provide more appropriate and timely delivery of palliative care to people with advanced cancer and their caregivers.

The purpose of this phase of the research program is to develop a national dissemination plan for the Guidelines and NAT: PD-C. Training packages will be developed and provided to health professionals from generalist and specialist settings attending nationally delivered “train the trainer” workshops

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

	Epidemiology
x	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
	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

Has the study received ethics approval?		Yes		No	x	Not applicable
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Project starting date: February 2009

Project completion date: December 2009

Multi site:		Yes		No	x	Not applicable
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RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name) **Prof Afaf Girgis**

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Investigator E (Name)

Associated publications / reports: Girgis A, Johnson C, Currow D, Waller A, Kristjanson L, Mitchell G, Yates P, Neil A, Kelly B, Tattersall M & Bowman D (2006). *Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines*. The Centre for Health Research & Psycho-oncology (CHeRP), Newcastle, NSW, 2006. (A summary of the Guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/cherp/professional-resources>).

AE Waller, A Girgis, DC Currow, C Lecathelinais. Development of a Palliative Care Needs Assessment Tool (PC-NAT) for use by multi-disciplinary health professionals. *Palliative Medicine*, 2008; 22 (8): 956-964.

Topics (Admin only) Referral, Palliative care and health care providers general, Planning and managing palliative care services general.