Brief description of the study: This project, through the development and evaluation of a triage tool along with the use of validated case conferencing, aims to increase access of palliative care for mental health clients as well as establish a consistent approach towards the care of people with both a severe persistent mental illness (SPMI) mental illness and a life limiting illness. A key element in this process is an integrated working relationship between mental health and palliative care services and includes access to mental health data bases for the palliative care service. Another aim is increasing the mental health knowledge base of palliative care clinicians and palliative care knowledge base of mental health services through workshops, observation of assessment processes and access to educational programs provided through both services.

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

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

Project details:

- Funding source (Optional): Department of Health and Ageing, Round 5 Local Palliative Care Grants
- Has the study received ethics approval? Yes (X), No, Not applicable
- Project starting date: 28 June 2010
- Project completion date: 30 June 2011
- Multi site: Yes (X), No, Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

- Principal Investigator (name)
  Professor Debbie Kralik

  Contact Details
  Debbie.Kralik@rdns.org.au,
  (08) 8208 5368

- Investigator B (Name)
  Dr Karin Myhill

- Investigator C
  Janet Taylor

- Investigator D
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kate Swetenham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigator E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Picot &amp; Karen Glaetzer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Associated publications / reports:**

**Topics (Admin only):** Mental illness, Planning and managing palliative care services.