CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	021

Study Title: Evaluation of the Palliative Care Needs Assessment intervention

Brief description of the study:

This study is part of a program of work that will improve patient-centred care and need-based utilisation of SPC services in Australia. Whilst specialist palliative care can improve outcomes for people with a life limiting illness and their families, access is variable and does not always reflect unmet need. We will trial whether an intervention that promotes regular palliative care needs assessment results in a better match between the levels of needs of patients with advanced cancer and their caregivers and their service utilisation. Participants' self-reported unmet needs and wellbeing will be assessed over a 15-month period (or until the patient dies) and bereavement outcomes will be assessed for caregivers 6 months following the death of the patient (if during study period).

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

	Epidemiology
	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
	Mixed Method
	Systematic Review
	Intervention: RCT
X	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?	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable
Project starting date: November 2006						
Project completion date: May 2011						
Multi site:	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name)	**Professor Afaf Girgis**
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Investigator B (Name)	**Professor David Currow**
Investigator C (Name)	**Professor Linda Kristjanson**
Investigator D (Name)	**A/Professor Geoff Mitchell**
Investigator E (Name)	**Claire Johnson**

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, Newcastle, NSW. Summary available online at:

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/cherp/professional-resources/needs-assessment.html
Topics: Planning and Management of Palliative Care Services General assessment issues and goals of care