CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0034

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)

	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 Local Palliative Care Grant Funding Round Three.

Has the study received ethics approval?	**x**	Yes		No		Not applicable
Project starting date: May 2006						
Project completion date: April 2009						
Multi site:		Yes	**x**	No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name):	Professor Esther Chang
Contact Details:	School of Nursing, University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus. Locked Bag 1797 Penrith South DC NSW 1797. e.chang@uws.edu.au
Investigator B (Name):	Ms Kathleen Harrison
Investigator C (Name)	Dr Michael Noel
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