



SUPPORTING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING CARE AT THE END OF LIFE

Health professionals find caring for those in the last stage of their life is an important, and often rewarding, part of professional practice.

When a life limiting illness cannot be cured, the focus of care changes to palliation, assisting people to have the best quality of life possible. Palliative care addresses physical symptoms such as pain or nausea as well as helping with emotional, spiritual and social needs.

Health professionals need access to credible and current information about palliative care to inform and support the care they provide to their community. This access is particularly relevant to professionals in rural and remote areas who are isolated from Specialist Services.

CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network* is a free online resource funded by the Australian Government to provide access to evidence-based palliative care information.

Specific Resources

- > **Clinical Practice Information:** Outlines the evidence on a range of physical symptoms such as pain, dyspnoea and fatigue as well as psychological, social and spiritual concerns including depression and promoting dignity. Includes pages on specific populations, such as people with dementia.
- > **Finding Evidence:** Makes finding palliative care literature and evidence easier. Includes automated PubMed searches on palliative care topics such as rural and remote health, and a systematic review collection.

- > **Finding Services:** Provides information and links to national bodies and organisations. Supports and services available in your State are also detailed.
- > **Education and Training:** Maintains details of university courses, conferences, short courses, and web-based palliative care learning modules.
- > **National Palliative Care Program:** Includes details of the Australian Government's National Palliative Care Program, including links to the Rural Palliative Care Program.
- > **For Patients and Families:** Provides quality information for patients and their family so they can be informed about a wide range of topics and issues.

CARESEARCH IS A FREE ONLINE RESOURCE FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO EVIDENCE-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE INFORMATION.

Brochures and other items can be ordered for care givers or other health professionals explaining the CareSearch website and how it can help. There is also the facility to register to receive newsletters.

CareSearch is an online resource funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to help clinicians find relevant evidence about palliative care. Available now at www.caresearch.com.au

