

## **THE PALLIATIVE APPROACH TOOLKIT: AN EVIDENCE BASED MODEL OF PALLIATIVE CARE**

Deborah Parker<sup>1</sup>, Karen Clifton<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Reymond<sup>2</sup>, Fiona Israel<sup>2</sup>, Kristien McAnnelly<sup>2</sup>, Gillian Davies<sup>2</sup>, Tracey Dutton<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>University of Queensland/Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre, <sup>2</sup>Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative.

Contact: [deborah.parker@uq.edu.au](mailto:deborah.parker@uq.edu.au)

**Brief Description of Research or Project:** The Palliative Approach Toolkit provides a one stop shop for implementing palliative care in long term care. Based on evidence based guidelines it provides a framework, educational and clinical tools for all levels of long term care staff. The model has demonstrated improved outcomes for residents, staff and family. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** The Palliative Approach (PA) Toolkit is an integrated framework of care that incorporates three key processes (advance care planning, case conferences and end of life care pathway), evidence-based clinical tools and interactive educational products to deliver best practice palliative care in long term care facilities. The Toolkit has been trialled in nine long term care settings in Australia. In this pre/post trial there were significant improvements in next of kin being involved in EOL discussions, the use of palliative care case conferences and the use of an EOL care pathway. There were significant improvements in the regular assessment and documentation of pain, the use of an appropriate pain assessment tool and management of non-pharmacological treatments for pain. Significant improvements were also found for assessment of dyspnoea using an appropriate assessment tool and the documentation of the effectiveness of treatment. Implementation of the PA Toolkit increases the capacity of long term care facilities to provide sustainable and comprehensive high quality end-of-life care for residents, both now and into the future. The Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative is leading an Australian consortium funded by the Department of Social Services for implementation of the PA Toolkit in 1,000 long term care homes in Australia. The integrated framework, educational resources and clinical tools can be adapted to other countries. This presentation will discuss the development of the PA Toolkit, showcase the PA Toolkit ([www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit](http://www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit)) and provide information on how the PA Toolkit might be adapted for the Canadian long term care setting.