

e-News

October 2014

In this edition of the Palliative Care Research Network Victoria (PCRV) e-news:

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PCRV Forum - Tuesday, 11th November 2014

Join Professor Samuel Porter and Anna Collins as they discuss “The What, Why and How of Service Evaluation”. Following the forum, there will be an opportunity to catch up and make new connections within the PCRV community.

THE WHAT, WHY AND HOW OF SERVICE EVALUATION

How does evaluation add value?

You know what you are doing is good - but how do you prove it?

Using realism to evaluate end-of-life care services

Professor Samuel Porter; Registered Nurse and Sociologist, Queen's University Belfast, UK

An evaluation of the family support services provided by Very Special Kids for parents of children with a life-threatening condition: A practical example

Anna Collins; Research Fellow, Centre for Palliative Care in collaboration with Very Special Kids

- Date:** Tuesday, 11th November 2014
- Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm followed by networking drinks and canapés
- Venue:** St Vincent's Hospital, Clinical Sciences Building,
Level 2, 1 Regent St, Fitzroy 3065
- RSVP:** This is a free event. Please register online at: www.trybooking.com/FNBV

Highlights of the Early Career Researcher Breakfast: Building a career in research

From across Australia, more than 50 early career researchers from a variety of disciplines attended the PCRNV's Early Career Researcher Breakfast Forum Focussed on 'Building a Career in Research' the forum was the prelude to the 2nd Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium as the PCRNV had identified a real need for the development and support of early career researchers.

Presenters came from a variety of disciplines and each brought their unique insights and personal experiences of working in research to the forum. Prof Jon Emery, Chair of the PCRNV Scientific Committee and an oncology researcher opened the forum with an introduction to the challenges that early career researchers face.

Palliative care clinician and researcher, A/Prof Jennifer Philip guided the early career researchers through a series of practical "how to" tips on running a successful project and research etiquette.

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"Mentorship and collaboration: packed an honest insight into mentorship - very beneficial."

Participant feedback

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Prof Janet Hiller an epidemiologist, health services researcher and the Associate Dean of Research at Swinburne University spoke about mentorship and collaboration. She packed an honest insight into her presentation and advised the audience that "...you may not find everything in one person".

Participants enjoyed hearing from Dr Anna Ugalde, a psychologist and research coordinator at the Centre for Palliative Care as she too is an early career researcher. Speaking from her own experiences, Anna was able to give the audience some good sound practical advice on how to communicate and disseminate research, fund and publicise your work - which is a challenging area for researchers in this phase of their career as they may be lacking the guidance and experience they require.

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"Hearing from early career researcher on funding and dissemination of findings; as a current higher degree student, the content of the presentation was extremely helpful, as was the topic on mentorship."

Participant feedback

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Closing with a panel discussion the participants then had the opportunity seek further advice from the experts.

Feedback revealed that participants were pleased to have had the opportunity to have open and honest discussion about being an early career researcher and have some advice in navigating the research arena.

Improving your knowledge of research: What is a Thematic Analysis?

Nicole Hennessy Anderson, Research Assistant, Centre for Palliative Care

In each edition of the PCRVN e-news, we will attempt to explore a research methodology or technique. In this edition we explore Thematic Analysis.

A Thematic Analysis is a method for searching, identifying, analysing and reporting patterns and meanings found within qualitative data. Such data may be from interviews, focus groups or a wide range of texts. The patterns and meanings that are actively identified and selected within the data are referred to as themes. Themes represent something important about the data.

The analysis process is interwoven with the researcher's values, understandings and positions. Researchers make decisions about the different ways to examine the data typically prior to analysis. Examples of different ways to examine data include:

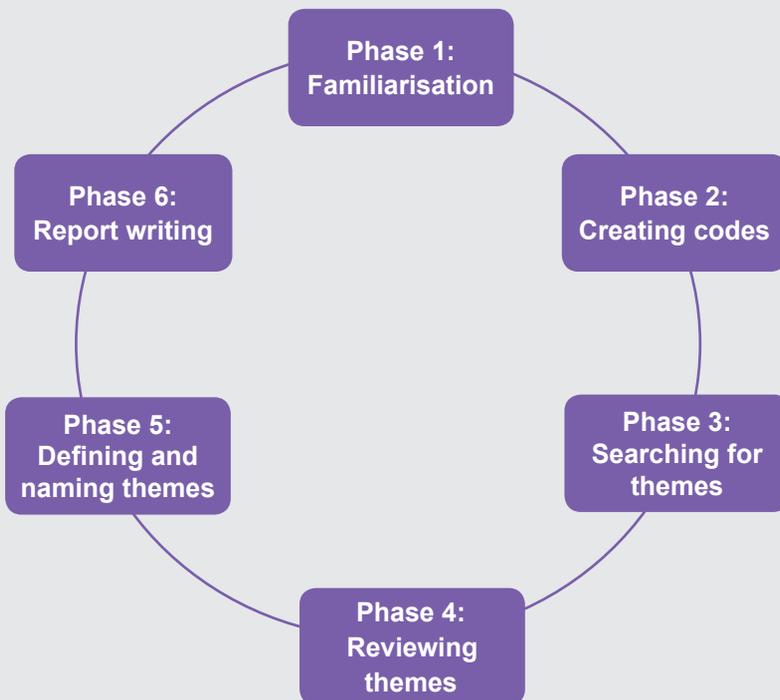
Inductive (focus on pure content of the data);

- Deductive (guided by existing concepts or ideas);
- Semantic (focus on the explicit content of the data);
- Latent (focus on concepts and assumptions underlying the data);
- Realist (focus on a shared/assumed reality or way of being in the world evident in the data);
- Constructionist (focus on how data creates different realities or ways of being in the world).

Thematic analysis involves rigorous multiple phases. Researchers shift repeatedly between phases, throughout the process. The 6 main analysis phases described by Braun & Clarke (2006) consist of:

- Phase 1. Familiarisation with the data. This involves repeatedly reading the data.*
- Phase 2. Creating codes. This involves systematically coding or labelling interesting aspects of the data.*
- Phase 3. Searching for themes. This involves gathering codes into potential themes.*
- Phase 4. Reviewing themes. This involves checking themes and some researchers generate a thematic 'map' of the analysis.*
- Phase 5. Defining and naming themes. This involves refinement of the description and meaning of themes.*
- Phase 6. Reporting the findings.*

The 6 main analysis phases are:



Overall, Thematic Analysis can be a useful method for qualitative research activities in a variety of disciplines. For a guide to thematic analysis, refer to:

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2006) Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3 (2). Pp 77-101. ISSN 1478-0886

www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa#.VDH2WVN0Zyl

For examples of other qualitative analysis techniques, see the book 'Willig, C. (2013) *Introducing qualitative research in psychology* (3rd ed.). Open University Press, New York'.

Contribute to the PCRVN's e-news

If your work is relevant to the PCRVN community, please email pcrvn@svhm.org.au with the subject 'e-News Submission' and we will feature your article or publication in an upcoming edition.

Upcoming Conferences

2014:

16th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology and Psychosocial Academy (IPOS)
20-24 October 2014
Lisbon, Portugal
For more information click:
[IPOS](#)

COSAASM 2014
December 2-4 2014
Melbourne, Victoria
For more information click:
[COSA ASM 2014](#)

UICC World Cancer Congress
3-6 December 2014
Melbourne, Victoria
For more information click:
[World Cancer Congress](#)

2015:

Asia Pacific Hospice Conference
30 April - 3 May 2015
Taipei, Taiwan
For more information click:
[Asia Pacific Hospice Conference 2015](#)

European Association for Palliative Care 2015
8-10 May 2015
Copenhagen, Denmark
For more information click:
[EAPC 2015](#)

Funding Opportunities

Decision Assist – Linkages Project Grants

QUT is seeking applications from eligible organisations for enabling grants of up to \$80,000 to undertake demonstration projects that promote linkages between palliative care services and aged care providers in both residential and community settings. Applications need to include at least two organisations, one of which must be funded to provide Commonwealth home care or residential services and one of which must provide dedicated palliative care services.

Grants will be provided to support projects which enable implementation of one or more of the following linkage strategies:

- Development of communication pathways and tools that support improved coordination and quality of end of life care between palliative care services and services in receipt of Commonwealth home care or residential aged care funding
- Establishment of formalised agreements between palliative care services and services in receipt of Commonwealth home care or residential aged care funding
- Development of multidisciplinary care approaches across palliative care services and services in receipt of Commonwealth home care or residential aged care services
- Establishment of new or enhancement of existing designated linkage roles across palliative care services and services in receipt of Commonwealth home care or residential aged care funding
- Implementation of continuous improvement processes that enable improved linkages across palliative care services and services in receipt of Commonwealth home care or residential aged care funding
- Implementation of other appropriate strategies that enable improved linkages across palliative care services and services in receipt of Commonwealth home care or residential aged care funding.

Successful project applicants will be provided with resources to support the implementation of the projects.

The Linkage Guidance Summary document, grant information, guidelines and application templates are available at www.decisionassist.org.au Grant applications close Friday 12 September 2014.

Victorian Cancer Agency - Grant applications closing on Tuesday, 7th October 2014

- **Clinical Research Fellowships** [Download Fellowship Guidelines for Applicants](#)
- **Early Career Seed Grants** [Download Seed Grant Guidelines for Applicants](#)
- **Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Supportive Care Research PhD Scholarship** [Download ONJCWC Guidelines for Applicants](#)
- **2014 Richard Pratt Fellowships for Prostate Cancer Research** [Download the Richard Pratt Fellowship Guidelines for Applicants](#)

Recent Key Publications to Foster Evidence Based Palliative Care

In each edition of E- news, we will highlight a few key publications that we perceive are important to the field of palliative care and provide a synopsis of the findings of each article.

The effect of communication skills training program for oncologists based on patient preferences for communication when receiving bad news: A randomized controlled trial

Authors: Fujimori M, et al

Summary: This study examined the effects of a person-centred communication skills training program for 30 oncologists who were randomised to either receive the training or not. A total of 1,192 patients who had consultations with participating oncologists reported their psychological distress, satisfaction, and trust in the oncologist. In addition, oncologists were objectively assessed on their performance and confidence in communication using simulated, videotaped consultations. Those oncologists who received the training had improved on several communication outcomes. While the training did not significantly impact patient's satisfaction with their oncologist, they reported greater trust and less depression. Results suggest experienced clinicians (9.3 - 30.3 years of practice) can benefit from communication skills training, and accordingly, so do their patients.

Reference: J Clin Oncol 2014, June 9 [Epub ahead of print]

<http://jco.ascopubs.org/content/32/20/2166.abstract?sid=9b9a6758-ffc9-49f6-a1ab-f7ddef3fc61>

The influence of patients' quality of life at the end of life on bereaved caregivers' suicidal ideation

Authors: Abbott CH, et al

Summary: This study examined suicidal ideation in 127 bereaved caregivers of patients who died from advanced cancer and attended a US based institution. Caregivers reported their perception of the patient's quality of life around their time of death. In addition, caregivers were assessed for suicidal ideation pre and post death. Suicidal risk was higher in caregivers who perceived the quality of life of their loved one to be poor around the time of their death. Results suggest health professionals involved in patient care at the end of life should ask caregivers about their perceptions of the patient's quality of life to assist with identifying bereavement suicide risk.

Reference: J Pain Symptom Manage 2014, Vol 48, Issue 3, pp 459-64.

[http://www.jpmsjournal.com/article/S0885-3924\(13\)00614-3/abstract](http://www.jpmsjournal.com/article/S0885-3924(13)00614-3/abstract)