



24 November 2015

National survey of palliative care health professionals launched

The *Listen, Acknowledge, Respond* (LAR) project today launched its national survey for health care professionals working with people living with advanced chronic and terminal illness. The survey will measure the existing skills and knowledge of primary health, allied health and aged care workers to address mental health issues in those living with dying.

The LAR project aims to improve mental health and quality of life for palliative and end-of-life care patients, their families and caregivers. The project, a collaboration between Charles Sturt University, Amaranth Foundation and integratedliving, will deliver training for up to 800 healthcare workers nationally as well as measuring the costs and impacts of training and care delivered under this model, along with an evidence-based rationale for continued Commonwealth funding.

“We are very excited to start the research aspect of this ground-breaking project,” said chief researcher and Amaranth CEO, Julianne Whyte.

“We call upon allied health professionals and aged care workers working with patients with advanced chronic illness around the country to participate in the project by completing our online survey,” said Ms Whyte.

The LAR baseline survey will be available from November 2015 to January 2016 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LARbaseline> and targets mental health clinicians, primary carers, nurses, the aged care workforce, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, social workers and speech therapists.

The LAR project will deliver a range of training workshops, including accredited CPD training, Certificate IV units and a Graduate Certificate in Integrated Chronic and Terminal Care, which will commence at CSU in 2016. All courses will be available online, as well as face-to-face CPD and Certificate IV workshops being offered around the country next year.

“As Australia’s largest regional University, we have a strong focus on developing professional skills in regional, rural and remote areas,” said CSU’s Associate Professor Janelle Wheat.

“We want to ensure equitable access to this professional development so our training workshops particularly target health professionals servicing regional communities.”

Future research will examine the skills and knowledge of health care professionals who complete the Mind the Gap training offered as part of the project, and compare this with the baseline results of the survey launched today.

The LAR project has been funded by the Commonwealth government under the Public Health Chronic Disease and Palliative Care program.

Health care professionals wanting more details about the training and research should visit <http://listenacknowledgerespond.com.au/>, or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for project updates.

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