



- Supportive Care Project Report to Advisory Group-

Project Title: Answering the unanswered questions about psychosocial screening in the cancer setting	Date of report : 28 October 2009
Organisation &/or Tumour Group: St. Vincent's Health	Start Date: May 2009
Project Manager: Dr. Carrie Lethborg	Completion date: June 2010
Progress to date:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 data collection (July-September) is complete • 264 patients with a confirmed cancer diagnosis have been identified from MDMs and through Cancer Social Work Team contacts in this period. Patient identification became more systematic over time as reflected in the increasing numbers each month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ July 47 ○ August 87 ○ September 130 • Baseline medical and demographic data has been collected on all these patients. Nearly one third of these patients (31.4%) live outside the metropolitan area based on the ABS postcode classification. Psychosocial data including demographic and diagnostic risk factors for psychosocial distress have been collected on 140 patients (53%). 93 patients (66.4%) had 3 or more risk factors for psychosocial distress (based on Clinical practice guidelines, 2003). • The psychosocial component of the database is now operational, which means information can be shared amongst multidisciplinary team members and an email alert is automatically generated to supportive care personnel for patients who reach the trigger points for high risk of psychosocial distress • Data is being collected on the clinical activities of supportive care staff at regular time points • Stage 2 of the project is underway 	
Next actions: Ongoing liaison and support of the Cancer Social Work Team, Nurse Coordinators and Cancer Patient Pathway Coordinators in relation to their project roles	
Other Comments:	

If you have any queries about the project please contact the Project Manager Dr. Carrie Lethborg on 03 9288 3179.