

Australian Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship in Dignity Therapy

Western Australian Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care, Curtin University of Technology

Applications are invited for a doctoral scholarship for research in palliative care in the area of Dignity Therapy for Motor Neurone Disease, leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

The scholarship is supported by the Australian Research Council Australian Postgraduate Award with Industry (APAI) Partner being the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Western Australia.

Field of study: The PhD study is expected to be undertaken in the area of Dignity Therapy for Motor Neurone Disease (MND). The primary aim of the study is to establish the effectiveness of Dignity Therapy as a palliative care intervention for patients suffering from MND and determine its impact on various measures of psychosocial and existential distress. The secondary aim of the study is to examine the impact of the intervention on family carers. The potential benefits of this intervention could lead to a reduction in in-patient admissions and a reduced need for respite for both the person with MND and the family carer. Considering the scarcity of effective interventions for the kinds of distress and suffering that so commonly occur amongst MND dying patients, this novel therapeutic intervention could be adopted within palliative care facilities and MND organisations.

Eligibility: Applicants must be acceptable for admission to a doctor of philosophy degree at Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. Applicants must be based in Perth and have a health related background.

Stipend: The scholarship is valued at \$27,222 pa (plus a Curtin Research Scholarship top up to \$30,000 for Australian residents) and is tenable for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of an extension of up to 6 months. Full time research scholarships are tax exempt.

Enquiries:

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Application forms are available from <http://scholarships.curtin.edu.au/scholarship.cfm?id=774>.

Closing date: 12 April /2010

Please send applications to: Jo Hale
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