

ABSTRACT FROM THE STAR RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED (2009)

Title: **Nurses use of online health information and heart failure resources in primary health care**

Lead Investigator: **Dr Jean Gilmour**

Heart failure is a common chronic debilitating disease with significant hospitalisation rates. Information and education are foundational elements in making the life style changes required for effective self-management of the symptoms of heart failure. The research aim is to establish primary health care nurses' access, use and evaluation of online health information and heart failure resources. The research design is a descriptive cross sectional survey using a mail-out questionnaire. A random selection of 1000 nurses employed in the primary health care sector will be drawn from the Nursing Council registration data base. Analysis of the data will include descriptive statistics, testing for association between key variables and a content analysis of the qualitative data. The research will provide empirical information to assist in the development of effective patient heart failure education strategies using information technology.