



**The client:** Marie Curie Cancer Care

**The brief:** Marie Curie started an innovative research utilisation support programme in 2008. They recruited Research Facilitators in some of their hospices, with a view to raising the awareness of research amongst staff, and ultimately to improving the quality of end of life care. As part of an overarching review of the programme, MCCC wanted a thorough process evaluation of the Research Facilitation role, its strengths and weaknesses and its impacts.

**The approach:** SDA conducted extensive interviews with the Research Facilitators themselves and with a range of staff from hospices – some of them with research facilitators in place and some without. An online survey was also conducted, aimed at a wider range of the whole MCCC workforce, in order to better understand how ‘research-minded’ the organisation as a whole is, and what approaches might further improve the use of research evidence by practitioners, as well as their own research skills.

**The outcome:** The evaluation found that in the hospices where Research Facilitators were in place there was considerably higher awareness of the role of research in end of life care, and greater numbers of ‘research active’ staff spread across wider professional groups, including nurses and OTs as well as palliative care consultants.

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