

Palliative Care Professional Development

Fact Sheet for Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF)



Palliative Care South Australia (PCSA) is the peak body and leading charity for palliative care in South Australia. This factsheet was developed for RACFs, aged care nurses and care workers to better understand the professional development opportunities available to increase palliative care awareness, knowledge and skills amongst the RACF workforce.

PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

A key finding of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was to make palliative care core business in aged care. One of the Royal Commission recommendations (accepted by the Government) was:

- *Compulsory palliative care and dementia care training for aged care staff. This will ensure the aged care workforce is suitably trained and skilled to meet the needs of those receiving aged care services, including those who have palliative care needs.*

This is supported by Palliative Care Australia's (PCA) Roadmap 2022-2027, which states:

- *36% of all deaths in Australia occur in residential aged care.*
- *Aged care providers and their staff must be supported by appropriate systems, funding and training to provide quality palliative care.*
- *Immediate 2022-2024 training priorities include:*
 - *Updated Certificate III in Individual Support includes compulsory palliative care and dementia units for those undertaking the Aged Care specialisation.*
 - *Updated Certificate IV in Ageing includes compulsory palliative care and dementia units.*
 - *Funding for additional training places in Certificate III and Certificate IV courses and additional staffing hours so existing employees can attend training.*
 - *All aged care staff have undertaken palliative care and dementia training.*
- *Short to Medium Term 2025-2027 training priorities are:*
 - *All staff in aged care have a minimum Certificate III qualification.*
 - *Funding to create an aged care career pathway including scholarships for staff to upgrade qualifications.*
 - *Establishment of a network of Centres for Excellence to deliver palliative care and dementia units to the aged care workforce.*

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING PALLIATIVE CARE IN AGED CARE

www.palliativecaresa.org.au

Palliative Care South Australia (PCSA) is the peak body for palliative care services and supporters in South Australia. They offer education and networking opportunities to the workforce to help to increase the options available to patients and improve quality of care.

www.palliativecare.org.au

Promoting quality palliative care since 1991, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is the national peak body. PCA represents all those who work towards high quality palliative care for all Australians who need it. They work closely with consumers, our Member Organisations and the palliative care workforce, we aim to improve access to, and promote the need for, palliative care.

www.countrysaphn.com.au

The Primary Health Network (PHN) for country South Australia, aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for people, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve the coordination of health services, and increasing access and quality support for people in country areas.

www.adelaidephn.com.au

The Adelaide PHN is an organisation focused on improving health outcomes, and the experience of primary health care within the Adelaide metropolitan region. Adelaide PHN aims to ensure the health system better meets people's needs.



KEY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Navigating all of the resources, training and evidence available	
<p>PaCE – The Palliative Care Education Directory www.pace.org.au</p> <p>PaCE is a resource directory for educators and health and aged care providers. Access relevant palliative care education resources direct to your device.</p>	<p>CareSearch – Palliative Care Knowledge Network www.caresearch.com.au</p> <p>The CareSearch Project provides access to palliative care evidence and tools for health professionals and information about death and dying for the whole community.</p>
Aged Care Specific Resources	
<p>ELDAC – End of Life Directions for Aged Care www.eldac.com.au</p> <p>ELDAC provides information, guidance, and resources to health professionals and aged care workers to support palliative care and advance care planning to improve the care of older Australians.</p> <p>The Residential Aged Care Toolkit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clinical care assessments & resources - Personal Learning Assessment - ELDAC Form - Organisational support <p>ELDAC has recently released a self-care room for aged care staff.</p>	<p>palliAGED – Palliative Care Aged Care Evidence www.palliaged.com.au</p> <p>palliAGED is the palliative care evidence and practice information resource for the Australian aged care sector. Providing support for health and care practitioners as well as resource developers, the website also provides trustworthy information for older Australians, their families and friends.</p> <p>palliAGED Practice Tips for Nurses in Aged Care palliAGED Practice Tips for Careworkers in Aged Care palliAGED Introduction Modules for Aged Care</p>
<p>PEPA Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach www.pepaeducation.com</p> <p>PEPA is funded by the Department of Health to increase the availability of palliative care education and training to organisations who are caring for people in aged care. Reverse PEPA Placements are free education and training that entails a specialist palliative care educator travelling to your place of employment to facilitate learning for 2–4 days. The learning will be specifically designed/targeted education that has been negotiated with your organisations learning needs prior to the learning.</p> <p>Learning & Placement Guides - PEPA</p> <p>For more information call 08 8271 1643 or email pepasa@palliativecaresa.org.au</p>	<p>Flinders University Research Centre for Palliative Care Death & Dying (RePaDD) www.flinders.edu.au/research-centre-palliative-care-death-dying</p> <p>RePaDD's mission is to make a difference to care at the end of life. We do this by examining the issues and challenges experienced by people living with a life-limiting illness, their carers, and the health and care professionals supporting them.</p> <p>RePaDD have published a booklet titled When someone dies in Residential Aged Care - Grief and Loss for Families. While developed for families, this is a useful resource for all RACF staff to increase their understanding of the resident and families' journey.</p>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Palliative Care	Undergraduate Curriculum
<p>Gwandalan eLearning modules & resources www.gwandalanpalliativecare.com.au</p> <p>Gwandalan can help improve cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in palliative care settings. In partnership with <i>Palliative Care South Australia</i>, Gwandalan offers a suite of education and training opportunities, both online and face-to-face, to facilitate greater understandings of cultural imperatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families.</p>	<p>Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) www.pcc4u.org.au</p> <p>PCC4U aims to improve the skill and confidence of the health workforce to work with people with palliative care needs by promoting the integration of palliative care training within all health undergraduate, entry-to-practice, and relevant post-graduate curricula.</p> <p>Enrolled Nurse Toolkit Care Worker Toolkit</p>
Discussion Starter - Working out what's right for you	PalliLEARN Foundation courses
<p>Palliative Care Australia www.palliativecare.org.au</p> <p>Talking about what you want at the end of your life can help to ease stress for you and your loved ones, so they know to meet your needs and can learn what support is available to help. Also available Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Discussion Starter.</p>	<p>Palliative Care SA www.palliativecaresa.org.au</p> <p>Foundation education courses which focus on the basic principals of palliative care. While the target audience is general community members, anyone can attend these courses.</p>