

## Summary of Report on Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care in South Australia (July to December 2014)

The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration has just released the latest South Australian state report presenting patient outcomes from July to December 2014.



The South Australian state report is based on information submitted by 13 services:

- 2 inpatient palliative care services.  
Inpatient palliative care services include patients who have been seen in designated palliative care beds as well as non-designated bed consultations.
- 8 community palliative care services.
- 3 palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

### South Australian PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 1,313 patients seen by South Australian palliative care services with a total of 1,719 episodes and 2,991 phases.
- 52% of episodes occurred in the community setting.
- Only 1 of all 14 benchmarks was met and this was in the inpatient setting only - Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start).
- The most improved benchmark was in the community setting for time in unstable phase (Benchmark 2). Results for this benchmark improved by 17.5 percentage points from a score of 64.9% in the previous report to 82.4% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in South Australia was 11.3 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 42.3 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.0 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 1.4.
- The most common phase in the inpatient setting was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 615 deteriorating phases (38% of inpatient phases) which, on average, lasted 7.2 days.
- The most common phase in the community setting was the stable phase. There were a total of 663 stable phases (48% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 29.2 days.
- 53% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
  - 71% died in hospital
  - 29% died in the community.
- 83% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 49% of inpatient episodes and 53% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.