

South Australian snapshot Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care January to June 2015



The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration is a voluntary program partnering with 17 palliative care services across South Australia to improve patient outcomes through benchmarking. Following is a snapshot of the key outcomes in patient care for the participating services from January to June 2015.

You can find the full report at <http://ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/reports/state/index.html>.

This South Australian report is based on information from 12 services meeting requirements for reporting:

- 3 palliative care services provide both inpatient and community care.
- 1 inpatient palliative care service.
- 8 community palliative care services.

Highlights of South Australian services reporting to PCOC

- PCOC palliative care services provided 1,777 episodes of care to 1,315 patients in this period.
- 70% of palliative care episodes occurred in the home or RACF (community setting).
- Pain management was the most improved patient outcome for inpatient patients.
- Three benchmarks was met in the inpatient setting (one for timely hospital admission; one for responsiveness to urgent needs; one for pain management)
- Patient outcomes for psychological or spiritual problems were above the national average.
- Areas for improvement include severity of other symptoms, family and carers, distress from nausea, breathing problems and bowel problems as patient outcomes were below the national average.
- For participating services, the average length of stay for a patient in hospital was 11.6 days (national average 10.9 days).
- Average length of time that care was provided for a patient in the community was 42.5 days (national average 38.3 days).
- 565 (43%) of patients from participating services died during this 6-month period, of these: 55% died in hospital; 42% died in the community.
- 85% of patients had a malignant diagnosis and 15% of patients had a non-malignant diagnosis.

Please contact PCOC if you require additional or customised information.