

The Benchmark

The newsletter of Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC)

September 2021, Vol 2

 palliative care outcomes collaboration	 PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE 2021	 Palliative Care AUSTRALIA PROMOTING QUALITY PALLIATIVE CARE SINCE 1984
		
Dr Barbara Daveson, Director PCOC	Ms Natalie Joseph PCOC Improvement Facilitator	Prof Claire Johnson Director PACOP
Can COVID-19 help change experiences of care for the better? Results from a national survey to determine the influence of COVID-19.	PCOC in Residential Aged Care - Supporting identification and provision of palliative care.	PCOC Wicking Model for residential aged care: key enablers to implementation.

PCOC in 21OPCC

The Oceanic Palliative Care Conference 2021 (21OPCC), held virtually from 7-10 September, is set to spark important and thought-provoking discussions about palliative care.

This year PCOC will be presenting on themes such as the impact of COVID-19 on care, and palliative care in aged care settings. Join us at the conference.

PCOC IT updates

PCOC's new version of palCentre - palCentre (2.7.0.0) - is now available. If you are using PCOC's profile forms or you are a residential aged care facility in PCOC, please update to the latest version at your earliest convenience.

PCOC Reports: Outcomes & Profile

The data submission portal has closed for Jan-Jun 2021 which includes data for outcome and profile collections as well as international reports. The service reports have been released on Wednesday, 8th of September 2021.

Visit our [POP website](#).

PCOC Benchmarking Workshops 2021

PCOC successfully completed the national and state-based workshops over the course of two months that generated a lot of discussions over benchmarks, future developments, and clinical processes.

If you'd like to let us know how we can improve next year's workshop, complete this [short survey](#) ([Click here](#)).

[Click here](#) to view Kathy Eagar's presentation.

Featured service



Sunshine Coast Hub for the Specialist Palliative Care Rural Telehealth Service

SPARTA, as they are commonly referred to is one of the early adopters of the TeleHealth model and has been successful in delivering quality services to their patients. Dr Prem Ram of SPARTA was a guest speaker in our Queensland-based [benchmarking workshop](#) and provided insights into how PCOC assessments assisted in ensuring patients and carers receive support via telehealth.

PCOC's sister centre

Palliative Aged Care Outcomes Program - PACOP

PCOC would like to announce that on July 1st, 2021 a new centre under the Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI) was established to drive palliative care in the Australian aged care sector. The Palliative Aged Care Outcomes Program or PACOP will act as a sister centre to PCOC. With the launch of the new sister centre, the residential aged care facilities that joined PCOC as part of the PCOC Wicking project have transitioned to the aged care program. We congratulate Prof Claire Johnson who has been appointed as PACOP's National Director.

YouTube

[Log on to our YouTube channel](#) to access our free Education and Training resources. Subscribe to receive updates on our latest training videos, expert panel discussions, workshop presentations and more.

Twitter

[Follow PCOC on Twitter](#) to find out more about PCOC's work, education, the research in the field, event updates, the latest news about palliative care, and more.

PCOC publications

Data submitted to PCOC is used for reporting, benchmarking and research into areas of importance to the palliative care sector. Publications in 2021 include:

1. [The PCOC Symptom Assessment Scale \(SAS\)](#): A valid measure for daily use at point of care and in palliative care programs
2. [Preferred Place of Death—A Study of 2 Specialist Community Palliative Care Services in Australia](#)
3. [Sleeping-related distress in a palliative care population](#): A national, prospective, consecutive cohort

New PCOC Staff



Maree McSparron

Maree was a key member of the PCOC team in the initial set-up and development of PCOC across the country in mid 2000s. Maree has re-joined PCOC in 2021 to continue in the ongoing and progressive work of PCOC - taking up the role of Central Zone Improvement Facilitator and Project Lead.

Her passion has always been to use standardised clinical assessment tools that drive quality care with appropriate resources to meet patient/carer need and identify opportunities for quality improvement activities. Maree's experience and a strong commitment to palliative care are great assets to PCOC and will complement PCOC's efforts in improving palliative care in Australia.



Emily Beric

Emily joined the PCOC team in July 2021 as an Improvement Facilitator for Queensland. Emily has extensive clinical experience and expertise in providing specialist palliative care and oncology services, across community settings and tertiary and non-tertiary hospitals.

Emily has a Bachelor of Speech Pathology, a post-graduate qualification in Health Management, and has also completed advanced training in palliative care and cancer care. Emily has over ten years' experience working in the health sector and has worked in various roles including clinical education management and project management. During this time Emily has led many service improvement initiatives at a health service and state-wide level, aimed at evaluating and improving clinical practice and implementing new models of care.