

Background

Palliative care education for general practitioners (GPs) in Australia is delivered through a layered structure which incorporates nationally publicly funded programs and projects, private providers, state-based initiatives, university and health service collaborations, and Primary Health Network (PHN) offerings. Education is offered in many forms including videos, blogs, apps, forms, guidelines, handbooks, webinars, toolkits, and podcasts.

Overarching education entry points for general practitioners

GPs seeking palliative care training can readily access opportunities via centralised hubs which are funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA), including:

- [Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet](#)
- [CareSearch Health professional education options](#)
- [DoHDA Palliative care education and training](#)
- [DoHDA Palliative care education and training opportunities for anyone who works in primary care](#)
- [PaCE The Palliative Care Education Directory](#)
- [Palliative Care Australia Health professionals' education](#)
- [Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative](#)

Education opportunities – listed by palliative care topic

Identification of palliative care needs - Tools

- [ACI Screening and identification of needs](#)
- [CareSearch Assessing palliative care needs](#)
- [CEC The AMBER care bundle and Last Days of Life toolkit](#)
- [ELDAC toolkits](#)
- [RACGP clinical guide \(Silver Book\) Palliative and end of life care](#)

Serious illness conversations, discussing prognosis, and goals of care development

Organisation	Guidance Source
Advance Care Planning Australia	Advance care planning
Ariadne Labs	Serious Illness Conversation Guide
Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care	Challenging conversations
CareSearch palliative care knowledge network	Communication starters
Clinical Excellence Commission	PREPARED model for difficult conversations
Dementia Australia	Planning ahead
DoHDA	Palliative care GP Communication Toolkit
Medical Journal of Australia	Clinical guidelines communicating prognosis
Navigate Health	Breaking bad news
Palliative Care Australia	Dying to Talk discussion starter
Queensland Health	Sad news sorry business
The University of St Andrews	Using SPICT
The Oncologist	SPIKES
The Waiting Room Revolution	Resources Waiting Room Revolution

What is palliative care and why, when, and how to refer

- [CareSearch What is specialist palliative care](#)
- [CareSearch Referring to palliative care](#)
- [caring@home Prompts for End-of-Life Planning \(PELP\) Framework](#)
- [Palliative Care NSW How to refer to specialist palliative care](#)
- [Palliative Care NSW When to refer to specialist palliative care](#)
- [The Advance Project eLearning for general practitioners](#)
- [HealthPathways](#)

Carer needs assessment

- [CareSearch Assessing family and caregivers](#)
- [Carer Support Needs Assessment Tool \(CSNAT-I\)](#)
- [Carers' Alert Thermometer \(CAT\)](#)
- [Needs Assessment Tool for Carers of People with a Chronic Condition \(NAT-CC\)](#)
- [CarerHelp Resources for patients](#)

Recognise deterioration and dying, and symptom management

- [RACGP Palliative and end-of-life care](#)
- [CareSearch General practitioner - Emergency planning and management](#)
- [CareSearch GP Hub , Recognising dying , Working in multidisciplinary teams , Home Death Checklist](#)
- [caring@home National Core Community Palliative Care Medicines List](#)
- [CEC Recognition, management planning and care after death](#)
- [Medcast End-of-life planning: Mini Audit](#)
- [palliAGED Care coordination](#)
- [palliMEDS app, caring@home app, caring@home Indigenous app](#)
- [QLD Health Subcutaneous guidance and Management of subcutaneous infusions in palliative care](#)
- [WA Health End of life education and training](#)

Loss, grief, and bereavement

- [CareSearch General practitioner - Bereavement](#)
- [Gippsland Region Palliative Care Consortium Grief, Loss and Bereavement](#)
- [SA Health Bereavement for GPs and other primary health care clinicians](#)

Spiritual care

- [SA Health Spirituality in Health and Palliative Care](#)
- [Gwandalan Supporting Palliative Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities](#)

Voluntary assisted dying

- [ELDAC End of Life Law](#)
- [End of Life Law for Clinicians](#)

Professional college providers

Professional colleges offer CPD-accredited short courses, certificates, and specialist training. These are often fee-based but offer structured learning pathways for clinicians seeking formalised education, such as:

RACGP – [Curriculum and syllabus units palliative care](#)

ACRRM - [Palliative Care Advance Specialised Training](#)

ANZSPM - [ANZSPM RRPIM Rural Training Program](#)

RACP - [Advanced Training in Palliative Medicine](#)

Federally funded palliative care projects and programs

National programs are supported through federal funding mechanisms providing high-quality, evidence-based education. These include online learning modules, clinical workshops, funded short courses, and placements. In addition to [The National Palliative Care Coordination Project](#), the opportunities include;

Advance Project	LGBTIQ+ Palliative Care Project
caring@home	palliAGED
End of Life Directions for Aged Care	Palliative care in Australian prisons
End-of-Life Essentials	Quality of Care Collaborative Australia (QuoCCA)
End of Life Law for Clinicians	Quality Use of Community Palliative Care Medicines Project
Gwandalan Palliative Care	Talking End of Life ...with people with intellectual disability

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) – The Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Program

PHNs play a central role in regional workforce capacity-building by commissioning and delivering palliative care education tailored to local needs. Training is aligned with nationally endorsed, evidence-based clinical protocols, which also underpin PHN HealthPathways. The [Greater Choice for Palliative Care at Home Program](#) is funded by DoHDA and delivered by all PHNs across Australia.

This program has significantly expanded palliative care training and education opportunities for GPs. Most education offerings and resources provided through PHNs are available free of charge. Some examples:

- Webinars and online workshops [Events - Brisbane North PHN](#)
- Peer learning forums [Metro South Health - Palliative Care ECHO](#)

Other sector and jurisdictional education initiatives

State and territory health departments, in collaboration with other health entities, offer training tailored to local needs, service structures, and policy frameworks. Examples include:

- Palliative Care South Australia [PalliLEARN](#)
- Queensland Health [Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education \(CPCRE\)](#)
- Cancer Council WA [Palliative and Supportive Care Education \(PaSCE\)](#)
- Sector learning collaborations example [St George Hospital and SESLHD - Communication skills](#)
- Condition based peak bodies example [The Heart Foundation - Education for professionals](#)

Experiential learning opportunity examples

- [Banksia Palliative Care educational placements](#)
- [Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach \(PEPA\)](#)
- [Indigenous Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach \(IPEPA\)](#)
- [Palliative Care ECHO](#)
- [St Vincent's Hospital Pathways to Practice Program \(PPP\)](#)
- [Victorian Palliative Medicine Training Program](#)

Private education provider examples

- [Medcast courses](#)
- [GPEx palliative care learning](#)
- [AGPAL training and education](#)

In addition, there are also [Australian conference and networking opportunities](#) available.