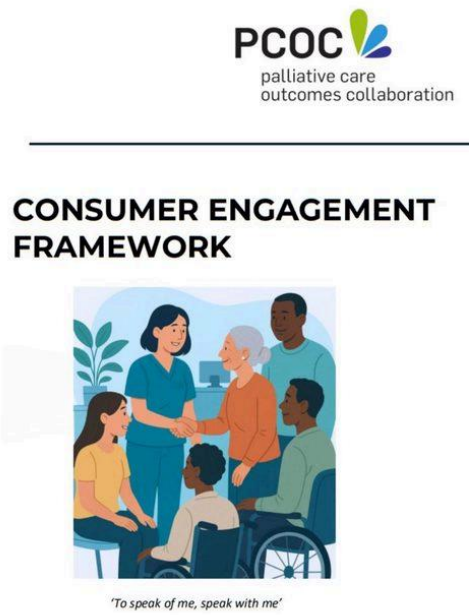
PCOC 20 YEARS

Celebrating 20 years in improving palliative care outcomes

March 2026 Newsletter

Released! Consumer Engagement Framework

Over many months of collaboration and codesign with the **PCOC Consumer Advisory Panel**, we have officially launched the **PCOC Consumer Engagement Framework!**



Last Thursday, we hosted a virtual launch to commemorate this significant body of work. We welcomed an array of guests from the **Department of Health**, **Palliative Care Australia, Advance Care Planning** and members from consumer groups including **Voices for Palliative Care**.

We were very fortunate to hear some reflections from members of our Consumer Panel, as well as valuable insight from **Executive Director for Advocacy and Engagement** at the **Consumers Health Forum, Tom Johnson**.

There was a **positive, uplifting energy** in the room, with some encouraging comments from attendees shared in the chat:

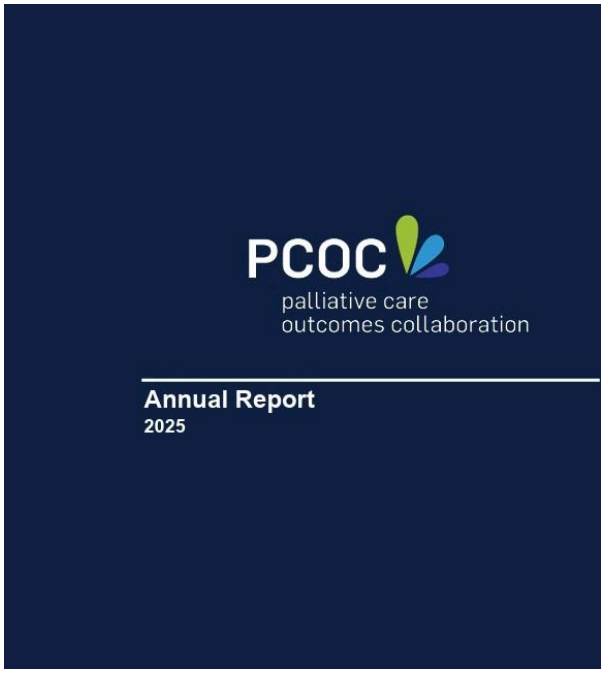
LOVE the tag line to 'speak of me, speak with me' Brilliant!!

What a wonderful resource to implement for my practice!

This has been the feel good event of the year for me. So wonderful to hear about the amazing contributions made and th level of respect, commitment and meaningful partnerships that will lead to improved palliative outcomes.
Absolutely fantastic to everyone involved!

We would like to extend our **sincerest gratitude** to all attendees and speakers at the launch, and a **big congratulations** to our Consumer Advisory Panel for their **invaluable role in developing the Framework**. To read the Framework and access other key consumer information, head to our **Community and Consumer Engagement hub** on our website.

PCOC Annual Report 2025



We have released our **2025 Annual Report,** showcasing **accomplishments** and **notable outcomes** from PCOC data.

Featuring a snapshot of **PCOC's education, governance, reporting, and research,** the annual report provides a digestible review of PCOC's **milestones** over the last year.

Access the report on the PCOC website home page.

Highlights from the Annual Report data include:

- Hospitals remain the **main source of palliative care referrals**, however the number of referrals has more than **doubled** over the last decade
- Symptom outcomes continue to improve, especially for **pain and breathing problems**
- Patients are commencing palliative care with **lower functional status**, suggesting **later referral** and **greater complexity of needs**.

What's New in PCOC Research?

'Comparing Severe Symptom Distress of Inpatients and People Cared for in the Community in Their Last Week of Life: A National, Consecutive Cohort Study' - Clapham et al. (2026).

Findings? There was **minimal differences in severe symptom distress between hospital care and community care** in the final week of life, **reassuring patients and their families/carers** regarding their choice for place of care.

‘Screening Protocols for Identifying Palliative Care Needs in Primary Care: a scoping review’ - Johnson et al. (2026).

Findings? The **implementation of screening tools in primary care remains complex**, shaped by contextual, organisational, and individual level factors. Embedding these tools effectively calls for **tailored, context sensitive approaches** that are **co designed**, **promote interprofessional communication**, and draw on **implementation science**.

South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) Registry Centre Annual Symposium - Friday, 13 March.

PCOC Ethics and Governance Manager, Nicola Howell, delivered a presentation at the **SAHMRI Symposium** last week under the category of embedding principles of **ethics, governance and data sovereignty,** distilling key insights from the development of **PCOC's registry, APCOR**.

Nicola also had the opportunity to meet **Australia’s Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd AO,** at this engaging event showcasing how advanced registry analytics turn data into action.

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