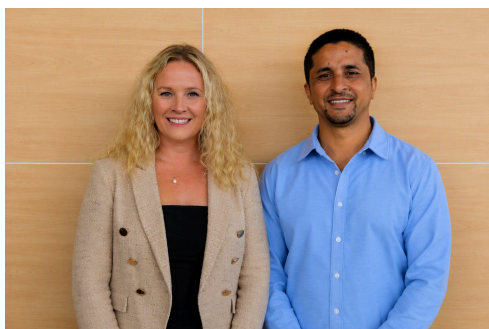

National Palliative Care Coordination (NPCC) Project Newsletter

Newsletter Edition 6 – August 2026

Embedding timely recognition of palliative care needs into everyday general practice



*'Australians are living longer with increasingly **complex health needs**. This investment allows us to work with **clinicians, health services, and consumers nationally to strengthen the foundations needed to deliver better palliative care outcomes across the health system.***

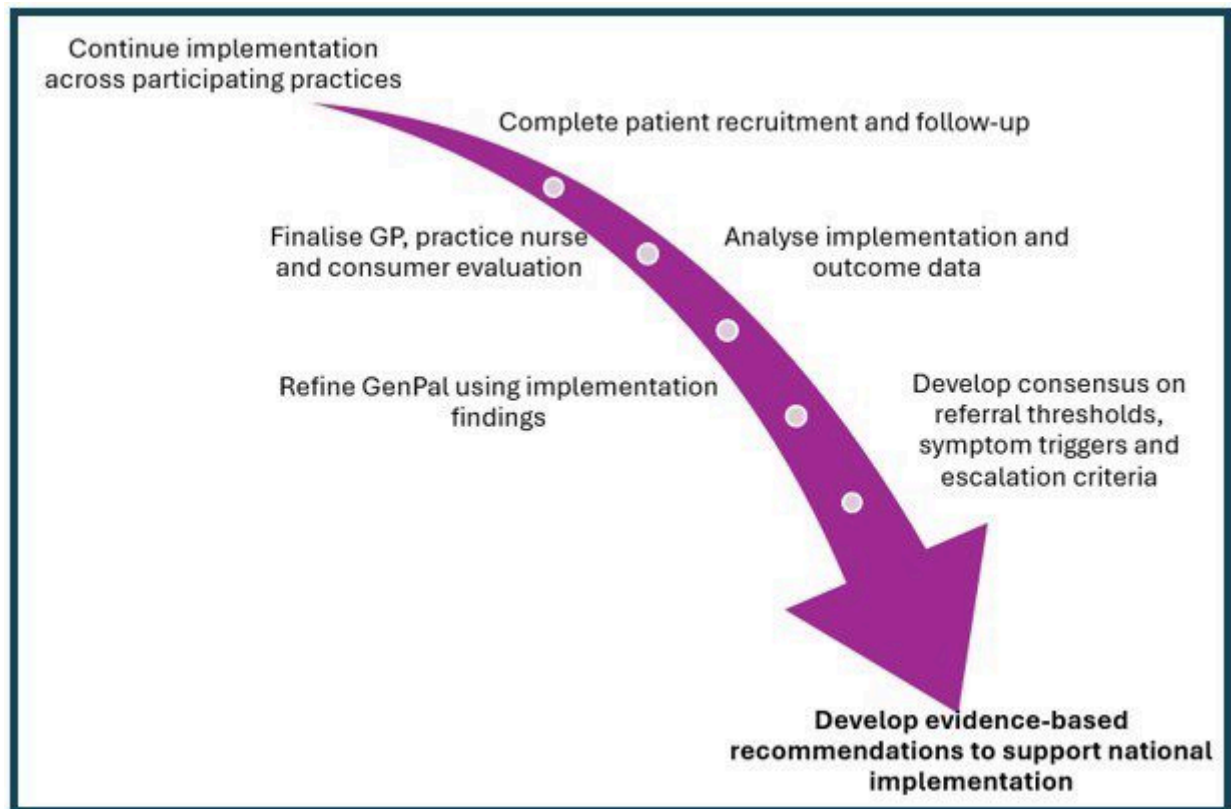
Sabina Clapham, PCOC & NPCC Director
with Dr Arjun Poudel, NPCC Senior
Research Fellow

Funding Secured! 🎉

We are thrilled to share that PCOC has successfully **secured four years of funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing** through the Palliative Care Grants Program. Building on over **20 years of PCOC's foundational leadership** in palliative care, the program is **expanding efforts** to encompass **earlier identification of palliative care needs** and continuing to **strengthen outcome measurement**.

This enhanced national initiative will address a **data gap for systems-wide impact** by extending PCOC into **primary care by building on work piloted by the NPCC project**, recognising that most Australians' **palliative care journey begins long before specialist services become involved**.

Project Implementation Update & Next Steps



- There are **more than 170 patients now participating** in the program.
- The **evaluation phase** is ramping up, with comprehensive surveys and interviews about to commence.
- We are generating **valuable insights** and lessons from implementation. These findings are helping us understand what works well, where there are opportunities for improvement, and how GenPal can be further refined. These learnings directly inform the development of the **next version of GenPal**.

Reported patient engagement benefits

The following **patient engagement benefits themes** emerged from general practice staff and their patients through the Community of Practice (CoP) sessions. They reported that participating in the project:

- **Facilitated discussions** across physical, psychological and social concerns
- **Identified unmet needs** previously unrecognised e.g. anxiety and depression
- Provided opportunity for **additional care coordination** and referrals, not previously considered
- **Enhanced** the therapeutic relationship

Visit NPCC at the ANZSPM 2026 Conference!

Members of the PCOC and NPCC teams will be attending the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine Conference taking place on **24-26 September 2026** in Launceston, Tasmania.



We look forward to **connecting with clinicians** who would like to know more about our work, so please come and see us at our conference exhibition booth.

NPCC General Practice and PHN project partners:

Holt Medical Centre & **Ochre Bruce Medical Centre** (Capital Health Network - ACT PHN)
Equilibrium Healthcare (Helensburgh) & **Milton Family Medical Centre** (COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW PHN)
Bundoora Medical Centre & **Doctors Care Clinic** (Eastern Melbourne PHN)
Cootamundra Medical Centre & **Redgum Medical Group** (Murrumbidgee PHN)
Quinns Mindarie Super Clinic (WA Primary Health Alliance)

Visit our [webpage](#) to view **primary care resources for Health Care Professionals, patients and families/carers.**

Contact us: npcc-contact@uow.edu.au

National Palliative Care Coordination project - University of Wollongong

NPCC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing