# National Palliative Care Coordination (NPCC) Project Newsletter

## Newsletter Edition 7 – October 2026

***Embedding timely recognition of palliative care needs into everyday general practice***

## A peek into early implementation findings

Early findings are based on insights gathered through Communities of Practice discussions, communication from participating practice leads gathered from site visits, and ongoing implementation support activities undertaken between **March-September 2026.**
**Participating practices reported:**

- Improved visibility of people living with progressive life-limiting illnesses
- Earlier recognition of changing needs
- Stronger continuity of care
- Technical and workload issues

**Patients** also provided positive feedback through surveys and interviews, highlighting the following about the program:

- “It made me aware of my symptoms on a daily basis”
- “Peace of mind that someone was looking out for me”
- “The connection with the nurse - opportunity to talk about any problems”

We continue to generate **core research discoveries** from this phase. These are helping us understand what works well and where improvements can be made.

## Next Steps - Implementation wrap & data diving

- **176 patients** participated in needs screening
- Over **1060 assessments** submitted
- **80 patient surveys** received to date and **10 interviews** complete
- **31 October** will be the final day for practices to upload patient symptom assessments
- During **November:**
  - Surveys and interviews with patients, practice staff and PHNs will be finalised
  - Analysis of project information collected from all sources to date ramps up

## NPCC at the ANZSPM Conference, Sept 2026




At the recent Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine **(ANZSPM)** Conference, NPCC’s Dr Arjun Poudel presented research undertaken by the NPCC team examining the timeliness and appropriateness of referrals from primary care to specialist palliative care services.

The study reports findings from a national cross-sectional survey involving 142 palliative care services across Australia. Click **here** to read more about this NPCC study.

## ** HDR Scholarship Opportunity **

Funded through a partnership between the University of Wollongong and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, PCOC-Plus is pleased to announce a National Palliative Care Outcomes Innovation Scholarship: a unique opportunity to partner with us and contribute to research that advances palliative care outcomes across Australia.

Potential themes include, (but are not limited to):

- Patient Experience, Outcomes and Quality Improvements in Palliative Care
- Palliative Care Health Services Research, including Access, Equity and Care Coordination
- Data science, artificial intelligence and digital health innovation.

**Click here to access the Eligibility criteria and a link to complete the on-line EOI**

## Meet the Wollongong-based NPCC team



From left to right:

- Dr Jack Thepsourinthone
- Dr Animut Ayalew
- Sabina Clapham
- Dr Arjun Poudel
- Dr Keryn Johnson
- Linda Foskett
  (absent - Stacey Heer, Albury-based)

**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***