



Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates

LEARNING RESOURCES FACT SHEET



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE RESOURCES?

The Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) Learning Resources have been developed to develop the ability of undergraduate students in health professions to provide palliative care. The learning resources therefore play an important role in improving the quality of health care provided to people with life-limiting illnesses.

WHAT DO THE LEARNING RESOURCES INCLUDE?

- A publication entitled *Principles for Including Palliative Care in Undergraduate Curricula*
- A publication entitled *Principles for Including a Palliative Approach to Aged Care in Undergraduate Nursing Curricula*
- An Interactive CD-ROM and web based teaching and learning resources, with accompanying facilitator guides
- A video learning resource
- A resource compendium

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING RESOURCES AIMING TO ACHIEVE?

The learning resources have been developed to facilitate the development of four core *graduate capabilities* identified as being integral for health professionals to provide a palliative approach to care for persons with a life-limiting illness. These graduate capabilities are included in Figure 1.

GRADUATE CAPABILITY

Effective communication in the context of an individual's responses to loss and grief, existential challenges, uncertainty and changing goals of care

Appreciation of and respect for the diverse human and clinical responses of each individual throughout their illness trajectory

Understanding of principles for assessment and management of clinical and supportive care needs

The capacity for reflection and self evaluation of one's professional and personal experiences and their cumulative impact on one's self and others

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE FOR USE OF THE LEARNING RESOURCES?

The resources have been developed for those involved in undergraduate education in the health professions. This includes:

- Medical, nursing and allied health students completing courses for entry to practice in their discipline
- Academic and clinical staff involved in teaching palliative care to students in the health professions
- Professional and regulatory bodies with an interest in establishing and monitoring standards for education in the health professions.



The project team consisted of a consortium of palliative care specialists from Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE), Flinders University (FUA), and Charles Darwin University (CDU) who are involved with undergraduate education in medical, nursing, and a wide array of allied health disciplines.

The Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) Project is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, through its National Palliative Care Program.



HOW WERE THE LEARNING RESOURCES DEVELOPED?

The learning resources were developed on the basis of outcomes from a range of consultative activities and evidence reviews. These activities included:

- Integrative reviews of published and grey literature on issues and practice in undergraduate palliative care education
- Scoping of existing curricula in Australia through survey and in-depth interviews with course providers
- Survey of health care professionals to assess views about core principles for inclusion of palliative care in undergraduate curricula
- Focus group discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, including consumers of palliative care and health professionals, to explore and refine core principles for inclusion of palliative care in undergraduate curricula.
- Student and peer review of learning materials for inclusion in the resources
- User testing and piloting of the learning resources in medical, nursing and allied health courses.

HOW CAN THE LEARNING RESOURCES BE USED?

The PCC4U learning resources were developed to be able to be:

- delivered flexibly in terms of time, place and delivery mode (ie, in CD-ROM, web or text-based forms)
- tailored to the needs of particular disciplines and courses
- used as a whole or in part.

Guidelines have been developed to assist those involved in undergraduate education to identify strategies for integrating resources within various curriculum contexts.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN EACH OF THE LEARNING RESOURCES?

Principles for Including Palliative Care in Undergraduate Curricula

The document entitled 'Principles for Including Palliative Care in Undergraduate Curricula' provides a framework and guiding principles for curriculum design, implementation and evaluation. The document includes detailed information concerning:

- graduate capabilities
- benchmarks for inclusion of the palliative approach in undergraduate curricula
- teaching, learning and assessment strategies

CD-ROM and Web-based Teaching and Learning Resources

A series of learning resources incorporating case-based learning activities has been developed for delivery by both CD-ROM and web-based format. Four specific modules, each based around a theme integral to developing the desired graduate capabilities and supported by a case study, have been developed. The four modules include:

1. Principles of palliative care
2. Communicating with people who have a life-limiting illness
3. Clinical assessment and intervention in palliative care
4. Optimising function in palliative care.

A detailed facilitator's guide has been developed to accompany each module. The facilitator's guide includes key messages, assumptions about prior learning, suggestions for additional learning activities, additional resources, and suggestions for assessing learning outcomes.

Video

The video presents the experiences of four different individuals with life-limiting conditions. Each scene provides an opportunity to meet individuals at various points in their journey and reflect on their experiences and interactions with health care professionals. The video can be used in a variety of different learning situations as a trigger for reflection and group discussion. A facilitator's guide has been developed to accompany the video.

A resource compendium

The resource compendium includes a comprehensive compilation of resources to support student's learning in palliative care, including:

- key texts and academic reference materials
- key websites
- curriculum examples and guides in palliative care
- other teaching tools and resources
- popular literature and resources from the arts.

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION?

Further information about this project can be found on the website www.pcc4u.org/