

**SA Gerontology (SAGe) Conference
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End of Life Matters - Connecting and Informing Care - Rosie Bonnin

Abstract

Connecting people with the evidence, information, tools, guidelines and resources to make informed decisions and provide high quality care is paramount in ageing and aged care. Australia has an ageing population and people are living longer, but for many this is often with chronic life-limiting conditions. Even with perfect health, living longer does not mean living forever and the number of deaths is expected to double in the next 25 years. As ageing, caring, death and dying, loss and bereavement will affect us all, end of life and palliative care issues are now being seen as everyone's business. As a society we are reluctant to discuss the 'D' words but what does that mean for people and their families coping with life limiting illness, and facing the prospect of imminent death, loss and grief. If we have lost the ability to talk about and manage end of life in our communities, then are we ready for the increased demand? Do we know what quality care at the end of life and palliative care look like and where to find support? Enter CareSearch and palliAGED, funded to provide everyone with free online evidence-based resources that support health and aged care practitioners as well as patient's carers and families to make informed decisions about end of life and palliative care issues. We will outline how these Commonwealth funded websites can be used to inform everyone and to promote engagement with end of life issues in our community.