

Mentoring specialist paediatric palliative care trainees



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Background: QuoCCA builds capability in the generalist and specialist paediatric palliative care workforce throughout Australia. It supports regional and community services to provide care close to families' homes as well as building expertise in tertiary centres. This study explored the experiences of QuoCCA Medical Fellow and Nurse Practitioner trainee positions in paediatric palliative care at Queensland Children's Hospital, to identify what contributed to their learning and to developing sustainable practice.

Method: Discovery Interviews were used to collect detailed experiences of 11 trainees employed by QuoCCA from 2016 to 2022.

Results: A combination of mentoring and formal education, peer support and practical experience was valuable for trainees (see figure). The support of the whole interdisciplinary team was advantageous to learning.

Conclusion: The service leadership and collaborative interdisciplinary team supported various modes of education and mentoring. The roles developed the trainees' specialised PPC clinical skills and their general clinical practice, including communication, empathy and holistic care. A structured curriculum is the next recommended step.

