

PALLIATIVE CARE IN PRISONS PROJECT

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in partnership with
UTS: IMPACCT



Message from Project Lead

PROFESSOR JANE PHILLIPS

Welcome to Issue 13 of the Palliative Care in Prisons (PiP) Project Newsletter.

Since our last newsletter, the Project has made significant progress. Most importantly, the Department of Health has granted the Project a 12-month extension, enabling us to complete key deliverables, including the [Gap Analysis](#). I am delighted to report that, after more than 50 ethical and governance applications, the collection of the baseline retrospective medical chart review is almost complete, with only the QLD data remaining.

The preliminary medical record data from one jurisdiction were presented at the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) Conference in Helsinki in May 2025. At the conference, I had the opportunity to connect with global experts working to improve palliative care for people in prison during the EAPC Taskforce Meeting. At our next community of practice, several members of the UK team will present a film they have made about 'Dying in Prison: A Dignified Approach.'

The final semi-structured interviews are being planned, with key stakeholders from across Australia contributing data that will deepen our understanding of the barriers and facilitators to providing palliative care in prisons. These interviews will also inform capacity-building activities at the individual, organisational, and community levels, which are required to strengthen palliative care in this complex environment. If you haven't had a chance to contribute and would like to, please reach out to Monique Hooper at monique.hooper@qut.edu.au

The co-design of the 'National Framework for the Delivery of Palliative Care for People in Prison' (the '[Framework](#)') is well underway. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Round 1 modified Delphi, which opened in April 2025, and to our 30 key stakeholders from corrections, justice, health, palliative care, as well as consumers and First Nations people, who joined us at the recent face-to-face modified Delphi panel workshop in Sydney. This workshop helped further refine the proposed Framework principles.

If you missed any of our recent [community of practice sessions](#), don't worry—you can watch them in your own time using the links provided in this newsletter. We look forward to hosting more engaging sessions throughout this year and next, so stay tuned!

Until next time,
Jane Phillips, Project Lead

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

We're pleased to share an update on the recent PiP modified Delphi survey, undertaken as part of our ongoing collaborative effort to develop a National Framework for palliative care delivery in Australian prisons. The modified Delphi panel brought together diverse voices from across the sector, including correctional staff, justice health professionals, palliative care providers working in prisons, researchers, and community representatives. Through this structured consensus building method, participants provided valuable insight into what constitutes "appropriate", culturally responsive care for people in prison with palliative care needs.

Over 30 participants undertook the survey that contributed to the consensus of 80 principles. We are currently analysing all the feedback and refining statements with a third and final Delphi round will be rolled out in the next 2-3 months. This round will be much shorter and more focused.

We'd like to sincerely thank all participants for your time, expertise, and commitment to this important work. Your contributions are making a real difference.



NEW ADVANCE CARE PLANNING RESOURCE

"WE NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO"

Developed in collaboration between Ngiyani Wandabaa, Advance Care Planning Australia, Centre for Palliative Care Resource and Education and the Gwandalan National Palliative Care Project, these First Nations resources can be used by community members (amongst family and friends) and professionals (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous).

The pack includes:

- Cover letter
- Tip sheet
- Teabag pouches for two tea bags – 1 bundle = 250 pouches
- Stickers – 8 x pages (1 per question) x 35 stickers per page = 280 stickers
- a range of questions to initiate yarning such as "who would you want to speak for you if you couldn't speak for yourself?"
- A4 booklet that allows for wishes to be documented
- 2 x lanyards
- A4 display folder.

If you have any questions, please email admin@advancecareplanning.org.au, call our National Advisory Line on 1300 208 582 Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm AEST or visit www.advancecareplanning.org.au

Over the next 12 months, the Project will deliver a range of activities designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of correctional services and justice health professionals and encouraging their active participation.

Q STREAM

The project is developing an online spaced education package for correctional services personnel on palliative care in prison. Following input at the Capacity Building Workshop in November 2024 we have co-designed a suite of cases which are being refined and will be available for trial at the end of July 2025. We are currently taking EOI from correctional services keen to test the feasibility and acceptability of the Qstream learning content within your workplace, please email us at pjp.project@qut.edu.au The project team will support you with testing this learning content.

Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative: Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA).

On the 16th May 2025 The PiP team hosted a one-day workshop with representatives from Corrections and Justice Health to provide detailed knowledge of the complexities of delivering palliative care in the prison context and PEPA/IPEPA. The aim of this workshop was to help equip PEPA/IPEPA with a detailed understanding of the unique prison context and as a result be able to confidently develop and deliver tailored, timely palliative care education in Australian prisons by learning from Justice Health representatives.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Our Community of Practice sessions will continue to mid 2026 to stimulate rich discussions and promote the sharing skills and knowledge. Planned session topics include Grief and Bereavement and continuing to cases in difference jurisdictions to provide insight into the various models of care across Australia. The next is scheduled for 20th August 2025. Please keep an eye out for calendar invitations which will be sent in coming weeks.

Please contact the team with any topic suggestions or to volunteer as a panel member for a session in 2025 (pjp.project@qut.edu.au).

Community of Practice Recording Links

Below is a list of previous communities of practice, offering valuable opportunities to collaborate, learn, and exchange knowledge. Explore these groups to enhance your professional development and stay connected within your field.

1. Voluntary Assisted Death and Implications for Australian Prison (22nd February, 2024)
Presenters: Penny Neller & Dr Andrew Wiley
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/6ah3CBI0xh4>
2. Providing Culturally Safe Palliative Care in Prison: Is This Possible? (6th June, 2024)
Presenters: Dr Christine Sanderson, Professor Megan Williams & Cheryl Porter
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/dNIZwz6G-e4>
3. Pain Management in Prison (25th July, 2024)
Presenters: Dr Emma Burns, Belinda Hirschbichler, Professor Nick Lintzeris & Dr Mica Spasojevic
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/MNu98g37JrA>
4. In Reach Models of Palliative Care for People in Prison - The WA experience (28th August, 2024)
Presenters: Dr Fermin Blanco Mayo & Dr Paula Moffat
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/C2QbIl3bKrk>
4. In Reach Models of Palliative Care for People in Prison - The WA experience (28th August, 2024)
Presenters: Dr Fermin Blanco Mayo & Dr Paula Moffat
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/C2QbIl3bKrk>
5. Anxiety and depression in the context of palliative care in prisons (10th October, 2024)
Presenters: Professor Andrew Teodorczuk, Cindy Stoupas & Dr Andrew Watt
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/0wHFMPJWGsk>
6. Establishing interdisciplinary palliative care in prisons (21st November 2024)
Presenters: Hannah Bodrozic, Catherine McLoughlin, Alice Finch, Amy Haughey & Mark Thorsby
Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/NPbvjzoF000>
7. Palliative Care in Prisons - Victorian model
Presenters: Dr Tamsin Bryan
Link to recording: https://youtu.be/GVsl_Asaa8s

PUBLICATIONS

Here is a selection of recent publications that highlight key developments and emerging insights. Explore these resources to stay informed and enhance your professional practice.

A recent systematic review highlights capacity-building strategies that support correctional and justice health professionals in delivering evidence-based care to people in prison. Key approaches include interprofessional education, mentorship, and culturally responsive training to improve health outcomes in custodial settings.

[Capacity-building strategies that support correctional and justice health professionals to provide best-evidenced based healthcare for people in prison: a systematic review - PubMed](#)

[Growing old and dying inside](#) report, authored by Dr Jane Price in partnership with the UK Prison Reform Trust's Building Futures Programme, provides insights into the age-specific experiences of men and women aged 50 and over who are serving prison sentences of 10 years or more. Based on consultation with 121 men and women in 39 prisons in the UK.

The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives report](#) has just been released relating to the importance of SEWB programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The report provides some considerations for practitioners and other professionals working to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and social and emotional wellbeing.

These [Inspection Standards for Aboriginal people in custody in New South Wales](#) are intended to apply to the management of all Aboriginal people in custody regardless of whether they are the majority population in a correctional centre or represent a minority. Where Aboriginal people are the dominant population there is a greater imperative to tailor regimes to Aboriginal people. The aim of these Standards is to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people in custody. They consolidate and build upon the Inspection Standards for Adult Custodial Services and should be read in conjunction with those Standards.

PROJECT LEAD

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PALLIATIVE CARE
IN PRISONS PROJECT

In partnership with:

SPHERE

Sydney Partnership for
Health, Education,
Research and Enterprise



Maridulu Budyari Gumatj
Working together for good health and wellbeing

NEXT MEETINGS

National Consortia Project
Advisory Group
Tuesday 8 July 2025
13:00-14:30 AEST



Correctional/ Justice Health
Services Working Group
Tuesday 26 August 2025
13:30-14:30 AEST



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Community
Engagement Strategy
Working Group
TBA



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