

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 18 of the Palliative Care in Prisons (PiP) Project Newsletter.

As we come to the end of another significant year for the Palliative Care in Prisons Project, I want to take a moment to reflect on the collective work that has brought us to this point. Over the past twelve months, the project has continued to build momentum towards a shared goal of strengthening equitable, culturally responsive, and evidence-based palliative care for people in Australian prisons.

This year has marked an essential phase of the project's deliverables, the co-design of a National Framework. The principles forming the basis for this Framework have been refined through several modified Delphi rounds, including a face-to-face workshop in Sydney on the 15th May 2025. We are now in the final stages of incorporating the last set of suggested refinements. These principles represent the depth of expertise, lived experience, and practical wisdom contributed by people working across custodial, justice health, specialist palliative care, and community settings. We look forward to the official launch of the finalised National Framework in the first six months of 2026.

Alongside this work, we have continued to translate these principles into practical capacity-building initiatives. The development of the Qstream spaced-education programme is one such example. Informed by the November 2024 Capacity-building workshop, the co-designed case studies have been refined and prepared for feasibility and acceptability testing. I would like to sincerely thank the organisations and individuals who participated in the initial mini-trial conducted in November 2025. Your willingness to test, critique, and improve this learning package has been invaluable, and your feedback is directly shaping the next phase of implementation. The insights gathered are directly informing refinements and shaping the next phase of broader implementation, outlined in the [Capacity Building section of this newsletter](#).

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the project over the life of this work through workshops, surveys, trials, and the Community of Practice sessions, and ongoing dialogue. The strength of this project has always rested in collaboration, generosity, and a shared commitment to improving care for people in prison at the end of life. I look forward to continuing this work with you into the new year as we move from development to implementation and impact.

Until next time,
Jane Phillips, Project Lead

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The final survey in this series has now been completed. The refinements suggested during the most recent workshops and earlier rounds are currently being incorporated into the national framework. Your input is directly shaping a practical, evidence-based and culturally responsive approach to palliative care in Australian prisons.

We remain deeply grateful for the time and expertise so many of you have contributed. Your insights are essential to ensuring the framework is workable within custodial environments and responsive to the diverse needs of people in prison nearing the end of life.

CAPACITY BUILDING



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.

QSTREAM

The project has developed an online spaced-education programme (Qstream) to support correctional services personnel in delivering palliative care in prison. Informed by the November 2024 Capacity Building Workshop, the co-designed case studies have been refined and are now ready for feasibility and acceptability testing.

We are seeking expressions of interest from organisations interested in trialling this learning package. Following an initial pilot, a further trial will be offered in January to enable broader participation. The project team will provide comprehensive support throughout implementation and evaluation.

To get involved, please contact pip.project@qut.edu.au

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Our Community of Practice sessions will continue in 2025-2026, fostering knowledge sharing and meaningful discussion. Planned topics include grief and bereavement, as well as case studies from different jurisdictions to highlight diverse models of care across Australia.

Calendar invitations will be distributed in the coming weeks.

If you have topic suggestions or would like to serve as a panel member in 2025, please contact pip.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/6ah3CB10xh4>

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/C2Qb1l3bKrk>

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 (5th March 2025);

Presenters: Dr Tamsin Bryan

Link to recording: https://youtu.be/GVsl_Asaa8s

8. SPIC4ALL in prisons (24th November 2025);

Presenter: Maria O'Neil

Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/zoMX7wuyzGs>

PALLIMEDS APP



The pallIMEDS app helps primary care prescribers deliver effective symptom management for patients receiving palliative care in the community.

It provides evidence-based prescribing information on medicines identified by clinicians across Australia as most useful for managing common symptoms in people receiving home-based palliative care during the final weeks of life.

Prescribers can search by symptom or medicine, access dosing guidance and clinical considerations, use the opioid conversion calculator, and check Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings, all within the app.



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.

[Aboriginal deaths in custody in Western Australian prisons: The importance of implementing cultural safety and human rights - Publications - HealthBulletin](#)

This article examines systemic failures contributing to Aboriginal deaths in custody and highlights why cultural safety and human-rights-based approaches are essential in prison settings.

[Expanding End-of-Life Options for Incarcerated Individuals - Jack Bookbinder, Kwasi Boaitey, Jonathan Herington, 2025](#)

This paper explores ethical and policy considerations for improving end-of-life care options available to people living and dying in correctional environments.

<https://palliativecareeducation.com.au/course/view.php?id=763>

These targeted online modules support disability support workers to strengthen their skills and confidence in caring for people living with serious illness.

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PALLIATIVE CARE
IN PRISONS PROJECT

In partnership with:

SPHERE

Sydney Partnership for
Health, Education,
Research and Enterprise



Maridulu Budyari Gumat
Working together for good health and wellbeing

NEXT MEETINGS

National Consortia Project
Advisory Group
TBA



Correctional/ Justice Health
Services Working Group
TBA



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Community
Engagement Strategy
Working Group
TBA



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