

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

Since our last newsletter, the project has gained significant momentum.

The final round of the modified Delphi process is approaching, with feedback from previous rounds consolidated into a near-final version of the National Framework. We have also recently sought feedback from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group to ensure the National Framework continues to reflect culturally grounded priorities and remains accountable to the communities it seeks to support. Their guidance at this stage has been critical.

Our Qstream spaced-education pilot has now been successfully delivered, with strong engagement across participating organisations. Thank you to everyone who contributed—your input is directly shaping a practical, relevant approach to workforce capacity building in prison settings.

On the dissemination front, the project recently hosted a Palliative Care in Prison session at the Future Justice and Corrections Summit in Melbourne on 24–25 March 2026. It was great to have Andrew Wiley (Director, South Australian Prison Health Service) and Jackie Ashmore (A/Executive Lead, Operations, Department of Justice and Community Safety), both active project participants, speak about their teams' experiences integrating palliative care into practice. We extend our sincere thanks to Andrew and Jackie for their collaboration and contribution in sharing this work more broadly.

Finally, we are in the last stages of data collection, with the final phase underway in Queensland. This marks an important milestone as we move towards completing this phase of the project.

As always, thank you for your continued support and engagement; it is what makes this work possible.

I hope to see many of you at our final workshop in Sydney on the 4th & 5th of June 2026.

Until next time,
Jane Phillips, Project Lead

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The National Framework is now nearing finalisation. Following completion of the final modified Delphi survey, feedback has been consolidated and integrated, with a near-final version of the framework now prepared. Round three of the modified Delphi is due to take place between 20 and 27 April 2026 and will seek key stakeholders' endorsement of the 35 proposed principles to ensure the Framework reflects their shared priorities and is ready for implementation. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed across the co-design workshops and the previous three modified Delphi rounds. Your expertise has been critical in shaping a framework that is both meaningful and actionable within prison environments.

CAPACITY BUILDING



Q STREAM

The Qstream spaced-education programme pilot has now been successfully undertaken, with strong engagement and uptake from participating organisations. This marks an important step in testing the feasibility and acceptability of the co-designed, case-based learning modules in real-world correctional settings. We sincerely thank all participants and organisations who took part in the pilot. Your time, feedback, and willingness to engage with this work have been invaluable in shaping the programme and ensuring it is both practical and relevant to custodial environments.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Our Community of Practice sessions continue, providing a space for shared learning and discussion across jurisdictions.

The next session is scheduled for:

29 April, 10:00am (AEST)

This session will focus on advance care planning in prison settings, with contributions from Advance Care Planning Australia and invited speakers with experience in custodial contexts.

If you would like to suggest topics or participate as a panel member in upcoming sessions, please contact pip.project@qut.edu.au

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/C2QbI13bKrk>

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_Asa8s

8. SPIC4ALL in prisons (24th November 2025)

Presenter: Maria O'Neil

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

ADVANCED CARE PLANNING WEEK (16-22 MARCH 2026)



Advance care planning helps ensure a person's values, preferences and goals of care are respected, even if they are unable to speak for themselves. Health professionals play a vital role in initiating early conversations, supporting individuals in documenting their wishes, and helping families navigate decisions with clarity and confidence.

National Advance Care Planning Week (16-22 March 2026) provided an ideal opportunity to deepen your understanding of advance care planning and strengthen your confidence in supporting people to plan ahead.

Resources to support your practice can be found [here](#)

PUBLICATIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Miller, E., Scharoun, L., Phillips, J., Williams, R., Hwang, J., Winter, A., Carroli, L., & Nissen, L. (2025). [Trialing Over-the-Counter Mild Pain Medication Access in Queensland Prisons: The Experience of Women Prisoners.](#) *Health and Human Rights*, 27(2), 363–374.

This article outlines Queensland trial to improve prisoner access to over-the-counter pain relief, highlighting gendered pain inequities and strengthening autonomy, health rights, and care equivalence.

Kader, F., Kruchten, S., Collica-Cox, K., Davidson, C., Hewlett, D., & Campo, M. (2026). [Does Dialogue-Based Learning Motivate COVID-19 Preventive Behavior Among Correctional Officers?](#) *Health Promotion Practice*, 15248399251411324. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248399251411324>

Dialogue-based health education improved correctional officers' health literacy and preventive behaviours, showing trust-building approaches can shift attitudes in custodial settings.

Deardorff, W. J., Lee, A. K., Lu, K., Jing, B., Boscardin, W. J., DiTomas, M., Dunlap, J., Williams, B. A., Lee, S. J., & Smith, A. K. (2025). [Development of a Mortality Prediction Model for Incarcerated Adults to Identify Palliative Care Needs.](#) *Journal of General Internal Medicine: JGIM.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-025-10103-w>

This study developed a mortality prediction model to identify people in prison at highest risk of death using routine clinical data. The model supports earlier palliative care, advance care planning, and more timely, proactive end-of-life decision-making.

Quinn, J., Patel, K., & Darani, S. A. (2025). [A Framework for Developing Mental Health Educational Interventions for Correctional Officers.](#) *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 53(4), 429–436. <https://doi.org/10.29158/JAAPL.250078-25>

This article highlights the complex ethical, legal, and clinical challenges of delivering care within custodial settings, where security priorities often conflict with patient-centred practice. It emphasises the need for clearer guidance and balanced decision-making to support equitable, humane healthcare in forensic contexts.

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PALLIATIVE CARE
IN PRISONS PROJECT

In partnership with:

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Maridulu Budyari Gumatj
Working together for good health and wellbeing

NEXT MEETINGS

National Consortia Project
Advisory Group
Thursday 23rd April 2026
13:00-14:00 AEST



Correctional/ Justice Health
Services Working Group
Tuesday 12th May 2026
14:00-15:00 AEST



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Community
Engagement Strategy
Working Group
TBA



This project is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health: Public Health and Chronic Disease Program, as part of the National Palliative Care Projects initiative.