

# Developing and evaluating the palliAGED apps

Tieman J, Tait P, Adams A

## Background

Smartphones apps are increasingly being used by family physicians/GPs for finding clinical evidence. The palliAGEDgp app was launched on 30 April 2015. It was designed to support GPs in providing palliative care to older Australians in residential aged care or living in the community. A companion app, palliAGEDnurse, was released in May 2016.

## Aim

To examine the use and value of the two palliAGED apps.

## Methods

Two studies were completed. The first study was a review of reach and usage. This analysis included details on downloads of the apps and information on those accessing app content held on the apps platform directly via the web. The second was an investigation of attitudes and views to the apps through two user surveys. The first dealt with palliAGEDgp through an online survey while the second dealt with the palliAGEDnurse app through an online survey and phone interviews.

## Findings

For the palliAGEDgp app there were 941 downloads in the first month of release and the first 12 months there had been 2,866 again far exceeding an initial estimate of total downloads over its life of 1,000.

Sixty seven respondents completed at least some of the palliAGEDgp app online survey. The survey showed that most of those who had used the app found it useful.

More than 741 downloads of the palliAGEDnurse app were achieved in the first month.

A total of 116 online surveys for the palliAGEDnurse app were submitted. The survey showed that most of those who had used the app found it guided their practice, was easy to use and that the framework and processes were useful. The investigation also showed that a number of organisations had embedded palliAGEDnurse or palliAGEDgp within their resources or processes.

Ethics for the study was received from the Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee of Flinders University (Project No. 7451).

## Discussion and Conclusions

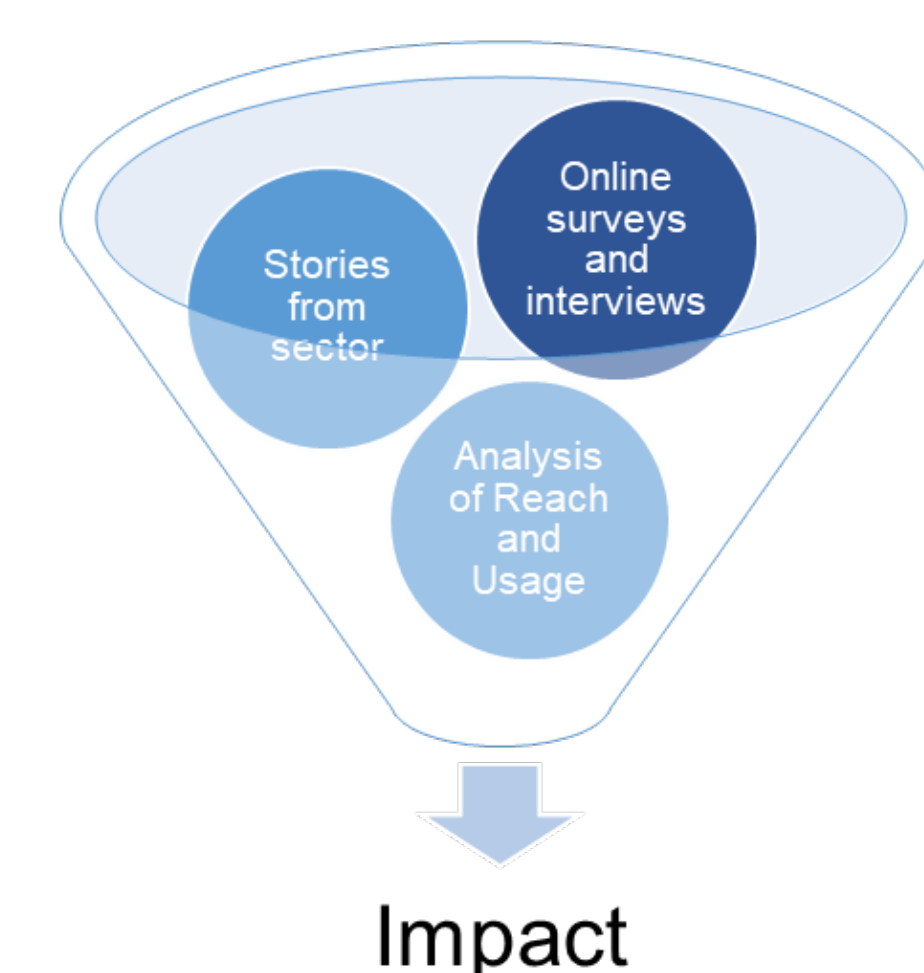
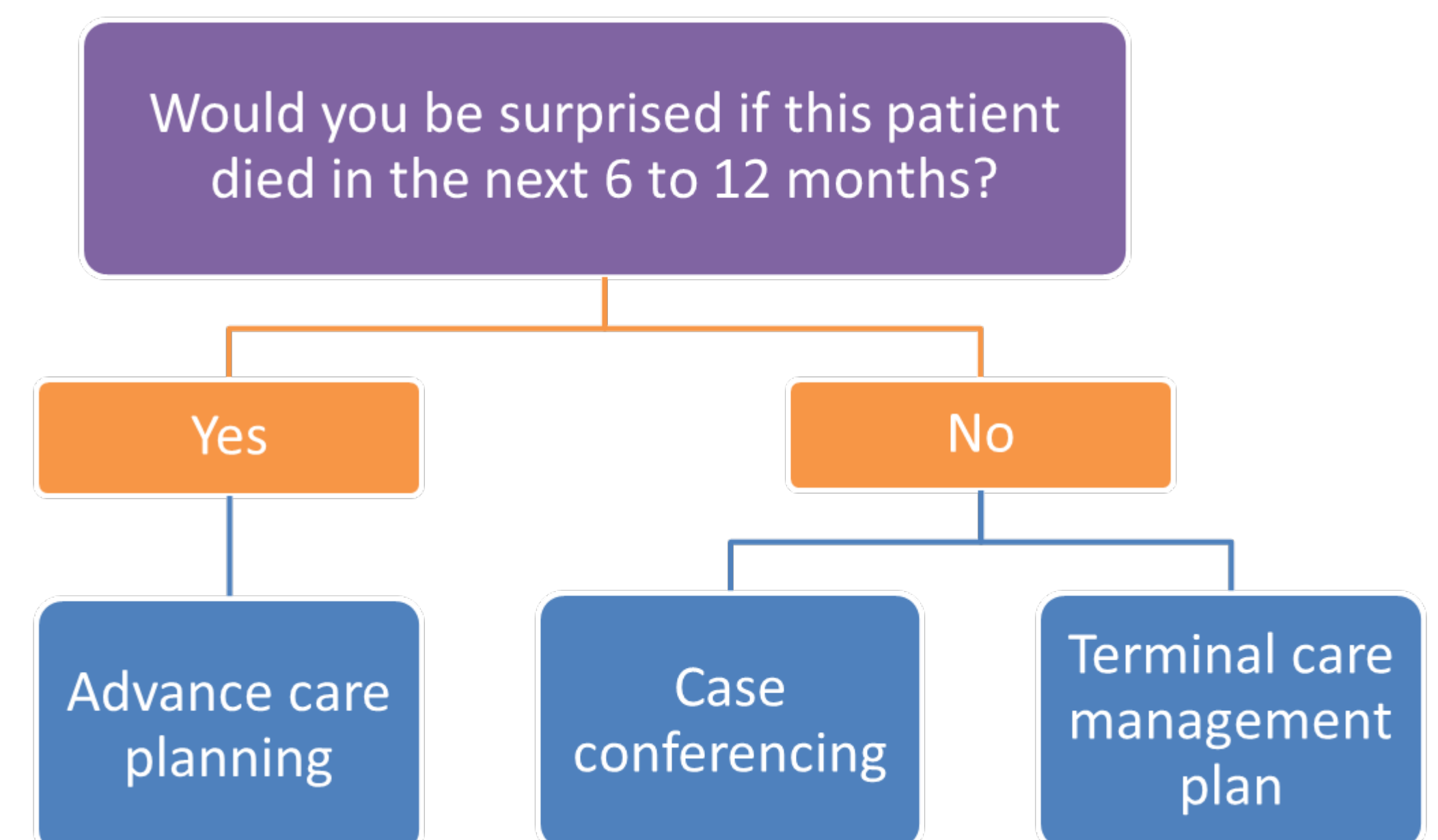
The download figures for the apps were greater than originally anticipated suggesting a greater interest or need than had been anticipated. Organisations had also embedded the apps in their care providing a further indicator of value.

The surveys and the direct feedback highlighted that there are many factors in play which affect the utility of apps within the workplace.

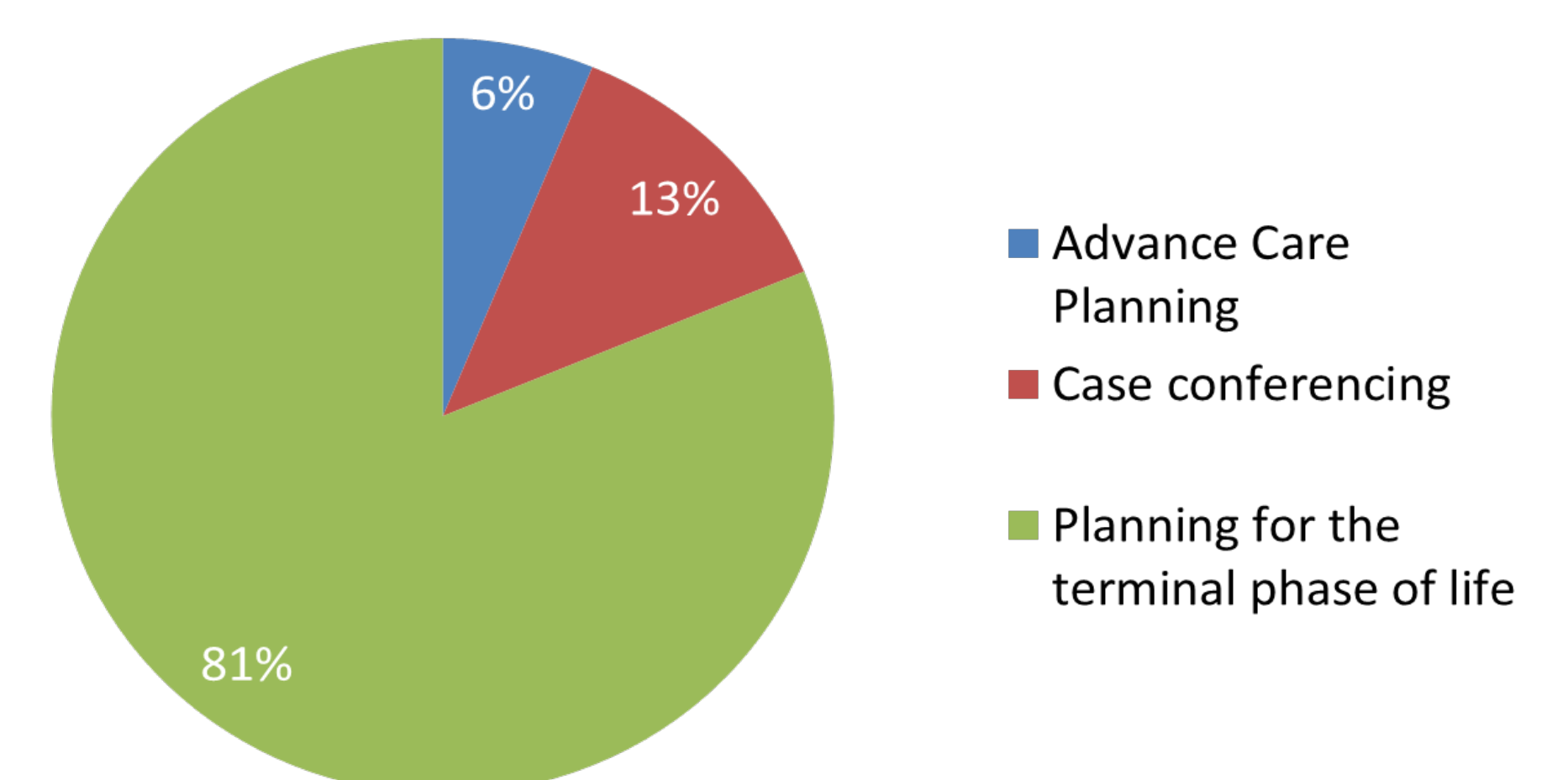
## Finding out more

Visit the palliAGED website at [www.palliAGED.com.au](http://www.palliAGED.com.au)

Download information at <https://www.palliaged.com.au/tabid/4351/Default.aspx>



Most common reason for using the palliAGEDgp app



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The palliAGED app guides my support of palliative care (n=54)	2 (3.7%)	1 (1.9%)	26 (48.2%)	18 (33.3%)	7 (13.0%)
palliAGEDnurse is easy to use and uncomplicated (n=53)	1 (1.9%)	1 (1.9%)	30 (56.6%)	14 (26.4%)	7 (13.2%)
The framework and processes present within the app are helpful (n=47)	2 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)	16 (34.0%)	23 (48.9%)	6 (12.8%)

- Continue to make palliAGEDgp and palliAGEDnurse available
- Expand promotion of the existing palliAGED apps
- Seek endorsement of the revised apps from ACN, APNA and RACGP
- Update and refresh the apps to enable more direct navigation and increase user friendliness
- Work with the primary care sector and the aged care industry to increase involvement in online technologies and technology solutions such as apps