



Palliative Care
Australia
Matters of life and death

Strengthening Supportive Care through the National Palliative Care Standards

Chelsea Menchin, National Projects Director, Palliative Care Australia

Supportive care

Supportive care encompasses various elements to address a person's needs during illness or recovery, **focusing on physical, psychological, social, spiritual, informational, and practical aspects. It aims to improve quality of life and well-being** throughout the care journey.

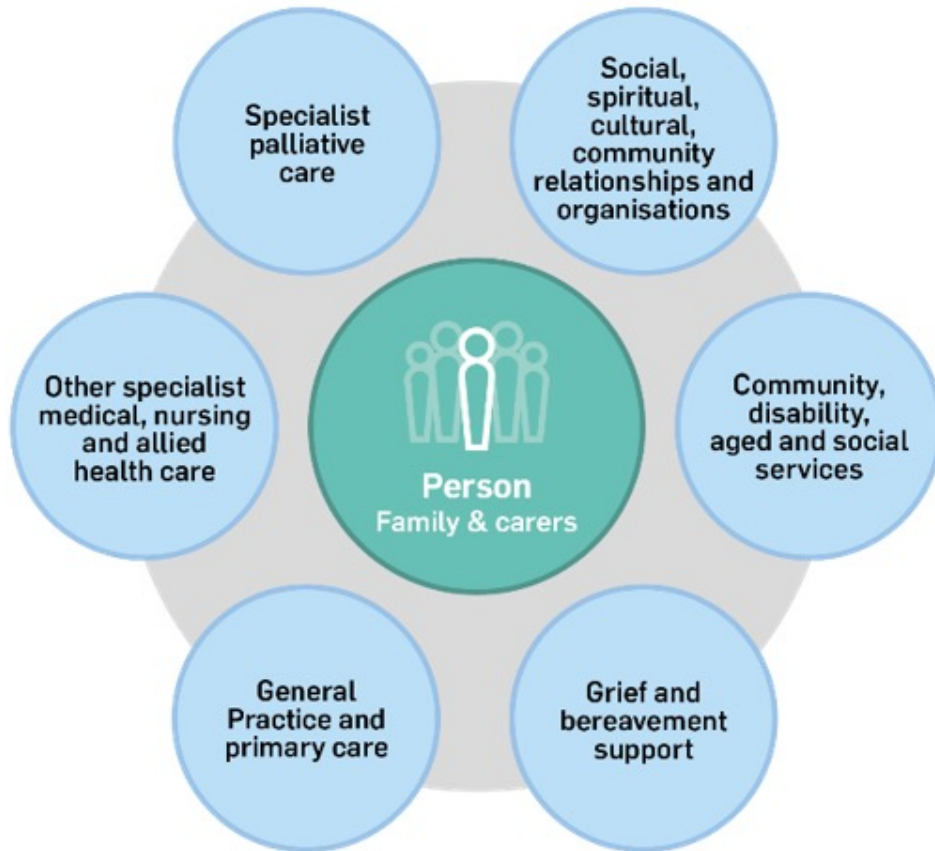
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Palliative care

In Australia, palliative care is defined by its holistic approach, focusing on improving the **quality of life for** individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their families. It **encompasses physical, emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual needs**, with a **strong emphasis on person and family-centred care**.

Palliative care: a team approach



- **Part of the human right to health**
- **A shared responsibility – across all health and aged care sectors**

Palliative care: a team approach



- Part of the human right to health
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Palliative care: high quality and person centred

- Palliative care helps people live their life as fully as possible with a life-limiting illness
 - Identifies and treats symptoms – whether **physical, emotional, social or spiritual**
 - Relief of pain (**early identification, correct assessment** and treatment)
 - **Equipment and tools** to aid care at home
 - Assistance for families to come together to **talk about sensitive issues**
 - **Planning for future** medical treatment decisions and **goals of care**
 - **Links to services** – e.g. home help and financial support
 - Support to meet **cultural obligations**
 - **Counselling and grief support**
 - Assistance for **families and carers**

Relevant from time of diagnosis
Can apply alongside curative treatment
Improves quality of life
Can improve prognosis
More than end of life care

National Palliative Care Standards

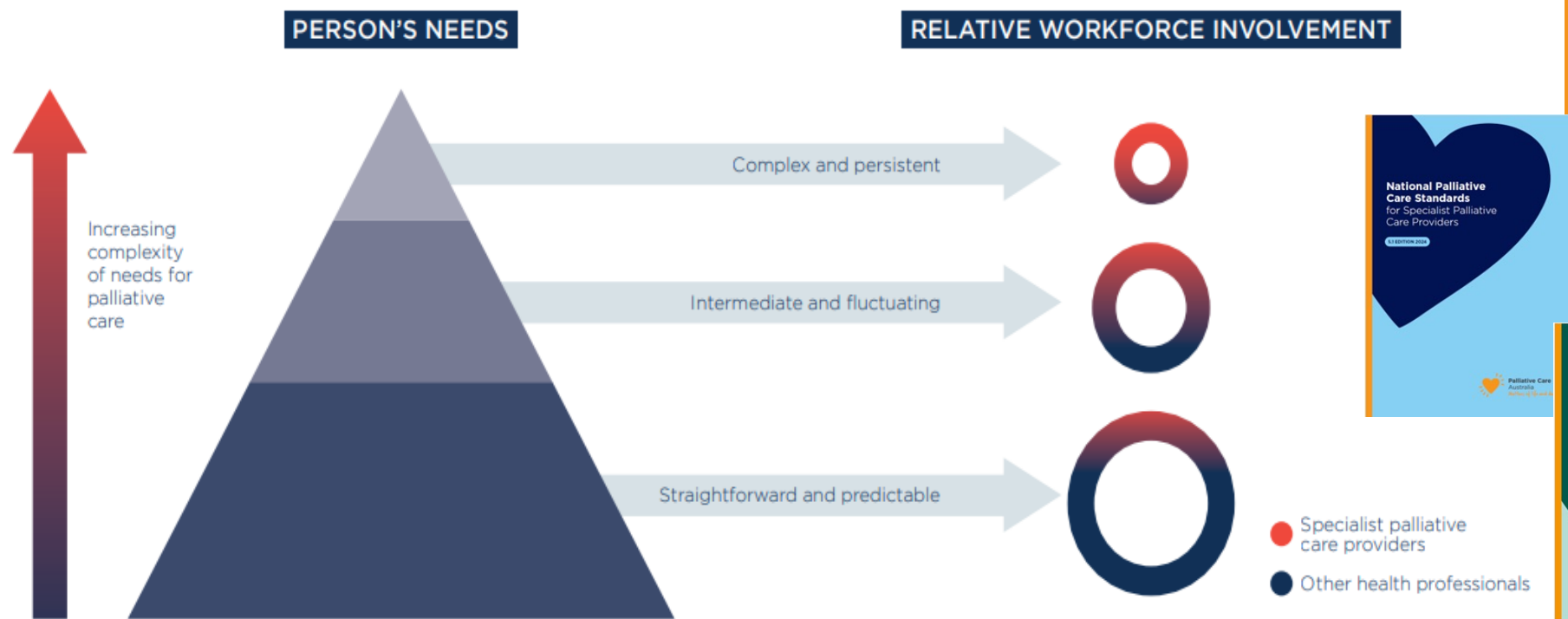


I work in Specialist Palliative Care

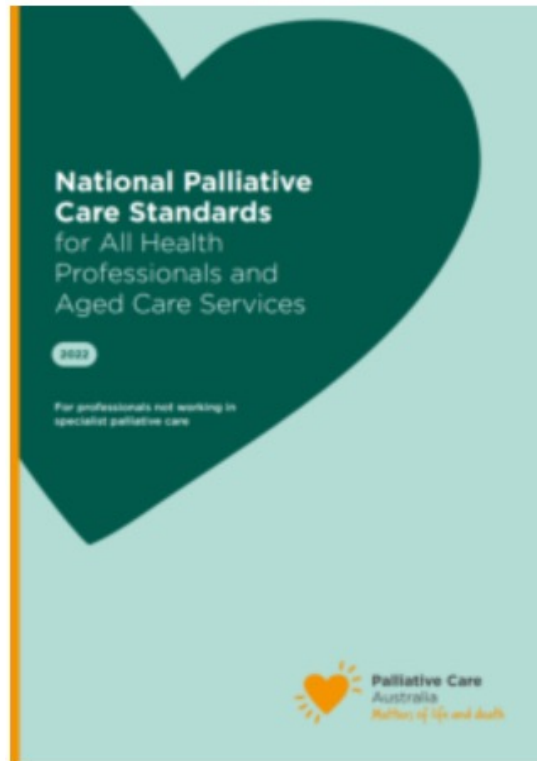


I work in primary, community, aged care and other specialties

Figure 3.2: Alignment of need for palliative care against workforce capability



Mapping the Standards for Primary PC Providers



- National Safety and Quality in Primary and Community Healthcare Standards
- *Strengthened Aged Care Standards*

What are the Standards?

National Palliative Care Standards

Care Standards



Governance Standards



**PaCSA for Primary
palliative care provision**
Palliative Care Self Assessment Checklist



Standard:

Can you perform this service?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What is your service current capability within this element?

☐ Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Mostly ☐ Always

Evidence category (please tick all relevant)

☐ Audit/statistical data ☐ Business record ☐ Policies and procedures
☐ Patient records/assessment ☐ Organisational wide surveys ☐ Other

Provide evidence (service to make notes of what it has as evidence)

Desired capability at next self-assessment:

☐ Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Mostly ☐ Always

Specify how and who will make improvements to this element

Action	Target date	Priority	Lead
		☐ High ☐ Med ☐ Low	
		☐ High ☐ Med ☐ Low	
		☐ High ☐ Med ☐ Low	

Examples of Evidence

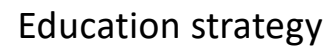
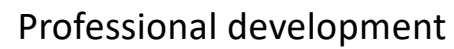
- Assessment tools:
 - assessment tools for carers of people with Chronic Condition
 - assessment tools for carers of people with Advanced Cancer
 - SPICt tool
 - Care search checklist for a home death
- Outcome and benchmark results
- Quality improvement projects
- Measurement of patient and family experience: survey's, interviews, focus groups, patient feedback opportunities
- Mandatory training completion by staff members
- On-going staff education opportunities and personal development
- Psychosocial patient support initiatives
- Multidisciplinary care team
- Advance care planning in support end-of-life care
- Support system in place for end of life care in your organisation (e.g. multidisciplinary working group, information system)
- Clinical Care Domains up to date (see [ELDAC Clinical Care Model](#))

Top three priorities for the next 12 months

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-
-



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What is your service current capability within this element?

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Evidence category (please tick all relevant)

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☐ Patient records/assessment ☐ Organisational wide survey

Provide evidence (service to make notes of what it has as evidence)

Desired capability at next self-assessment

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Specify how and who will make improvements to this element

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Examples of Evidence

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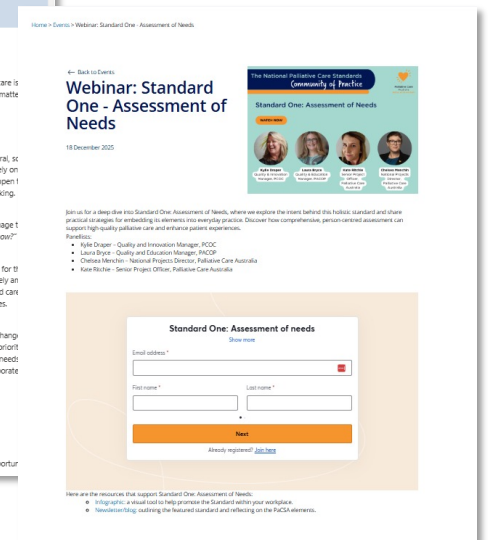
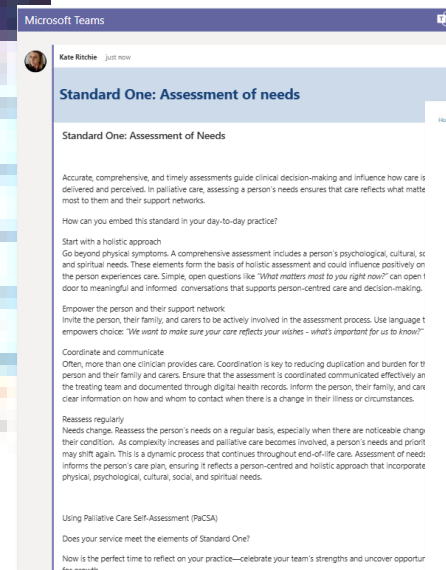
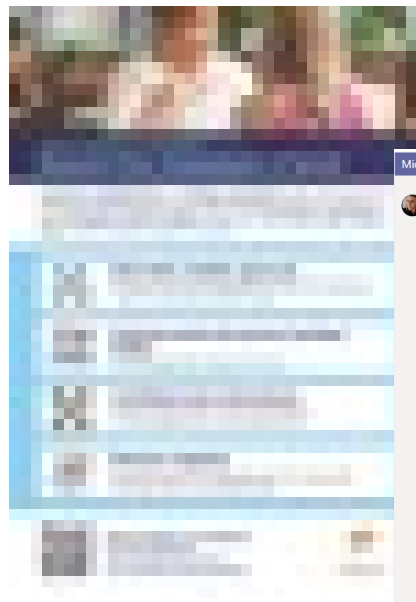


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Palliative Care Australia

National Palliative Care Standards Community of Practice

Scan to join now



Tools for clients, families and workers to better understand what to expect



Tools for You

SELF CARE MATTERS



BRAND NEW !!!!!





Timely Palliative Care

A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK

About the course

Content is focused on optimal timing and practical communication skills for clinicians having palliative care discussions with patients and family.

Three interactive modules lead clinicians through:

- Palliative care in the 21st century
- Discussing a palliative care referral
- Taking your skills into practice

The course is free to access and offers approved Category 1 and optional Category 2 CPD hours.



Scan QR code to access

Non-RACP members create free Guest account to login.

Funding was provided through the Cancer Patient Support Program of the Department of Health, Disability and Aging.

"... a wonderful resource – I will certainly be recommending it to my cancer care colleagues."





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