



A contemporary education and training framework for health professionals in EOLC



Aim

Education and training in end-of-life and palliative care (EOL&PC) for health professionals is critical to support EOL&PC access and early conversations about meaningful end-of-life choices. The aim of this project was to identify and implement a framework to support health professionals' access to EOL&PC education in a meaningful way.



Method

We developed the EOL&PC Education and Training Framework (framework) following a comprehensive analysis and consultation including:

- **Review** of the EOL&PC education and training needs for health professionals in WA.
- **Reference Group** with subject matter experts to inform:
 - **Literature review** of educational needs of specialist and generalist palliative care providers, specialist palliative care support to generalist health professionals, and building capability across the health workforce.
 - **Desktop audit** of education and training available in WA Health Service Providers.
 - **Survey** of gaps, preferred approaches to education, and current programs and resources available.
- **Drafting the framework** to be a resource for all health professionals, staff and organisations that care for people with EOL&PC needs, including generalists and specialist palliative care.
- **Piloting** the framework at 40 sites with a variety of organisations and roles.
- **Sharing** the framework via a PDF that was modified to an eDocument and made available on the [WA Department of Health website](#).
- **Ongoing enhancements** to improve usability.
- **Working with CareSearch** to create an enhanced digital resource including an interactive personal learning matrix and learning plan to connect users with their identified education needs held within the [CareSearch portal](#) (a learning 'checklist/mud map').



Findings

- Comprehensive review of WA health professional education and training revealed there is a significant number available, however health professionals find it difficult to identify their specific needs, and have trouble accessing and navigating the variety of options.
- The clear need for a connected learning pathway to assist individuals to identify their learning needs and accommodate professional groups and specific learning items was met by the implementation of the framework.
- Collaborating with CareSearch led to a digital solution allowing direct navigation to access existing resources.
- The framework supports an easy and efficient pathway for time-poor clinicians to address identified education and training learning gaps.



Conclusions

- Developing an information portal that connects learning needs to relevant resources and aligns with the framework provides a more time-efficient and outcome-focused approach to meeting the educational needs of health professionals.
- CareSearch provides an agile environment that can be responsive to the changing workforce and professional development landscape.

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