



Talking about end of life

A training program for residential aged care facilities (RACFs)

“Talking about end of life” is a training/mentoring program with a difference. It requires commitment from each RACF to form an identified palliative link team who will be taught to recognise residents with palliative care needs and the concepts of advance care planning. The training support team will help build staff confidence to talk about end of life issues with residents and families and to communicate effectively with General Practitioners. Most importantly, the training support team will provide follow up visits to each facility to mentor the skills taught during the training days.

This training program will mentor RACF staff to:

- Identify residents who would benefit from a palliative approach.
- Communicate effectively with residents, families and General Practitioners.
- Conduct family case conferences.
- Provide terminal care for residents.
- Commence a review process for those residents who die.

Project Steps

Each facility will:

1. Commit to the program by Management completing formal registration.
2. Recruit at least five staff members to form a palliative link team.
3. Prepare for the training.
4. Send all palliative link team members to training day 1.
5. Participate in follow up mentoring visits for 3 months post day1 training.
6. Have the option to send the palliative link team to a follow up half day training to introduce the use of an end of life pathway.
7. Participate in mentoring visits for a further 3 months post follow up training.

Palliative Link Team Members

We encourage the involvement of a mix of staff which could include registered nurses, enrolled nurses, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists, including assistants and medication competent carers/senior care workers.

Training

The training program is run every 2nd month and is provided free of cost with catering provided. It will include formal training, ongoing mentoring up to 6 months for RACF staff, and a Palliative Care Resource Kit.

Twenty five places are allocated to each training day with a maximum of five participants from each RACF.

Certificate of Training and Attendance is provided to all attendees with National Registration Continuing Professional Development points.

For further information please contact the Palliative Care Network.

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