



TOPIC 2

Caring for Aboriginal people with life-limiting conditions

To provide quality care for people with life-limiting conditions and their families you need to be able to respond effectively to their specific needs.

OVERVIEW

TOPIC 2: Caring for Aboriginal people with life-limiting conditions will help you develop the knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care, across various health care settings, to Aboriginal people with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

This focus topic is based on the core principles of palliative care and is designed to supplement the learning activities in Module 1: Principles of palliative care.

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- identify the practice principles of caring for Aboriginal people with life-limiting illnesses.

SECTION 1

Caring for Aboriginal people with life-limiting illnesses

ACTIVITY 1: Tom's story



THINKING POINTS

1. What are some of the communication issues illustrated in the video?

2. Think about your own discipline and identify actions you could take to ensure that the care you will provide to Tom and his family is culturally safe.

ACTIVITY 2: Engaging with Aboriginal communities in providing palliative care

THINKING POINTS

1. Consider how each of these factors - historical, social, physical and environmental, mortality and morbidity - can impact on the provision of palliative care for Aboriginal people

ACTIVITY 3: Acknowledging specific needs



THINKING POINTS

1. Nancy says: “We need to take our cues from the family”. What does this mean?

2. Nancy mentions to Sarah that the local Aboriginal Medical Service might be a good resource in terms of locating a traditional healer. Go to the website [Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet](#) and move through the sections about health systems/health workers/organisations and find your local Aboriginal Medical Service on the map. Identify the key elements of their service.

ACTIVITY 4: Communication principles when caring for Aboriginal people

THINKING POINTS

1. ‘Yarning’ allows the longer narrative to be told.

a) What is your understanding of ‘yarning’?

b) What is its relevance in end-of-life care?

2. Refer to the communication principles on pages 20 and 21 in the Indigenous Palliative Care Resource Kit – Practice Principles. Describe specific strategies you might use to apply these principles in practice.

ACTIVITY 5: Communicating with Tom's family



THINKING POINTS

1. What strategies are demonstrated by Nancy at the beginning of the scene to facilitate effective communication with Tom?

2. What recommendations would you make to improve communication by Nancy and Sarah?

3. What are the key needs and concerns likely to be for Tom and his family as they face Tom's imminent death in the hospital? Provide evidence for your answer.

4. Jimmy states that “Dad knows he’s not going to make it back to country to die.” Based on this scene, what are some of the reasons that Tom may want to return to country to die?

ACTIVITY 6: Building capacity

THINKING POINTS

1. What resources are available to support health professionals maintain a culturally safe environment when caring for Aboriginal people?

2. How do you determine if the care you are providing is culturally safe?
