

NEWSLETTER

PCC4U

PALLIATIVE CARE
CURRICULUM FOR
UNDERGRADUATES

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Health

The PCC4U project is led by Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

More information about the project team, project advisory group and project governance is at www.pcc4u.org

The PCC4U project directly articulates with goals one, two and five of the National Palliative Care Strategy 2010. Find out more about the strategy at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/palliativecare>

The PCC4U project team, based at Queensland University of Technology, is:

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Welcome...

Welcome to the Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) newsletter. The PCC4U project aims to improve the skill and confidence of the health workforce to support people with palliative care needs. To date, this has been achieved through promoting the integration of palliative care training within all health undergraduate and entry to practice curricula in Australia. The project has been very successful with data from our December 2014 audit indicating around 72% of university entry to practice courses are implementing or reviewing the PCC4U learning resources.

In May 2015, the Minister announced further funding to QUT to establish a National Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative. The Collaborative aims to build the capability and capacity of the health workforce to provide quality palliative care for all Australians through partnering with other government funded palliative care projects.

The PCC4U project will be a key program within the Collaborative, building on the strong platform developed since its inception in 2004. In this next phase, PCC4U will also extend its work to benefit entry to practice courses outside of the university sector. Specifically, in 2015 – 2017, PCC4U will extend its scope to strengthen integration of palliative care curriculum resources into relevant programs in the Vocational Education and Training sector and other health care settings which provide courses for regulated and unregulated health care providers. PCC4U will continue to work with university courses that prepare health care providers for entry to practice with an emphasis on efforts to increase implementation rates in allied health courses while continuing our efforts in medical and nursing programs.

The Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative will also work with CareSearch, a national web-based Knowledge Network funded by the Australian Government and managed by a team at Flinders University, to develop a new Education and Training Information Hub. More information about the Hub is included in this edition of the newsletter.

PCC4U Project Update

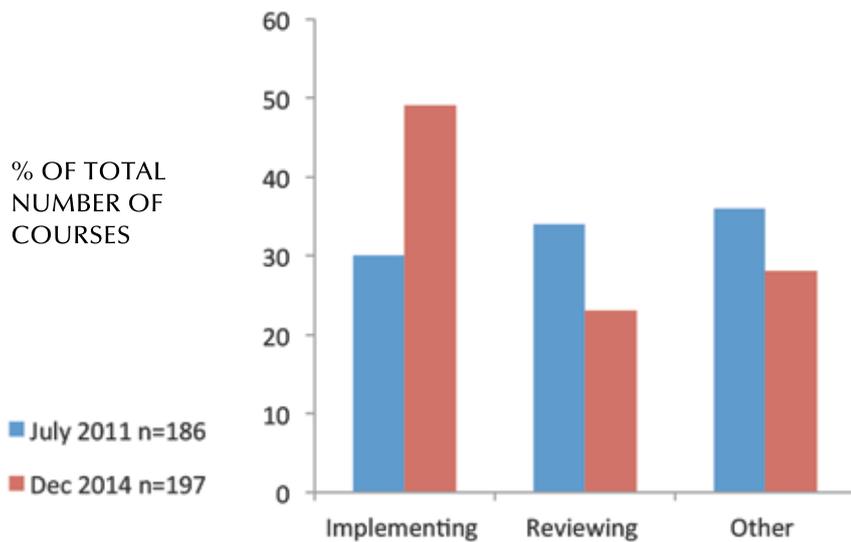
The project team systematically contacts, supports and records the participation of health courses in universities using the PCC4U resources and accessing teaching support. Data collected since July 2011, indicates an increase in the number of courses actively engaging with the project (See Graph 1).

In Dec 2014, 197 pre-registration health professional courses nationally were included in reporting. Of these, data indicated:

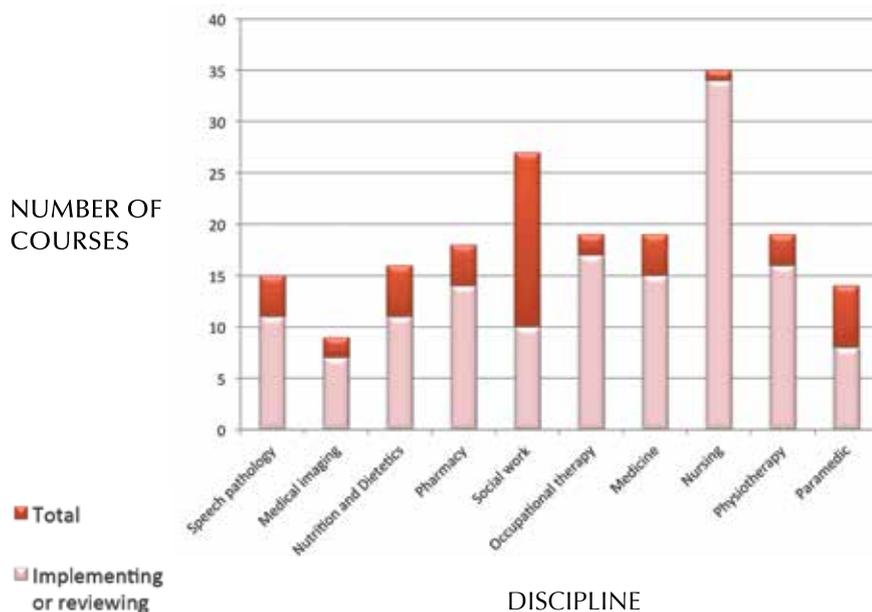
- 97 (49%) actively implementing palliative care initiatives/content
- 44 (23%) in process of reviewing and increasing palliative care content

Course implementation data reflects higher uptake in medical and nursing courses and reinforces opportunities to improve implementation in allied health courses. Graph 2 outlines the discipline specific implementation rates.

Graph 1 Comparison of course implementation rates: July 2011 to December 2014



Graph 2 Course implementation rates by discipline at December 2014



Upcoming Events

13th Australian Palliative Care Conference

From 1 – 4 September 2015, Palliative Care Australia will be holding its 13th Australian Palliative Care Conference, Fit for the Future at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Delegates from across Australia and the world will be attending to talk about palliative care in all its dimensions. Both national and international speakers will focus on three key areas – Exploring; What will the future look like? Recognising; Who is part of our future and Preparing; How do we get ready for that future? We are encouraging all those who have a passion for palliative care to join us as we explore how to ensure palliative care in Australia is Fit for the Future.

For any queries contact events@palliativecare.org.au and for more information go to www.palliativecare.org.au/australian-palliative-care-conference.

PCC4U project staff will be attending the Australian Palliative Care Conference. Please visit us at the Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative exhibition booth. We look forward to seeing you in person.



Palliative Care Workforce Development Pathway Model

In 2014, a consultative workshop was held in Brisbane. The aim of the workshop was to inform the development of a framework to guide funders, managers, educators and individual health professionals to ensure a high quality workforce that meets the palliative care needs of people in the future. Responses to the following key questions informed the development of the framework:

- How do we define the palliative care workforce?
- What capabilities are required by the palliative care workforce?
- How can we develop the required capabilities most effectively?
- What and where are the gaps and opportunities?

A draft model outlining the core elements of a palliative care workforce development pathway was developed following this workshop (Figure 1). A principles document which will define and expand on the capabilities required at the different levels of the model is being developed. The model will inform future work in developing the new Education and Training Information Hub on CareSearch.

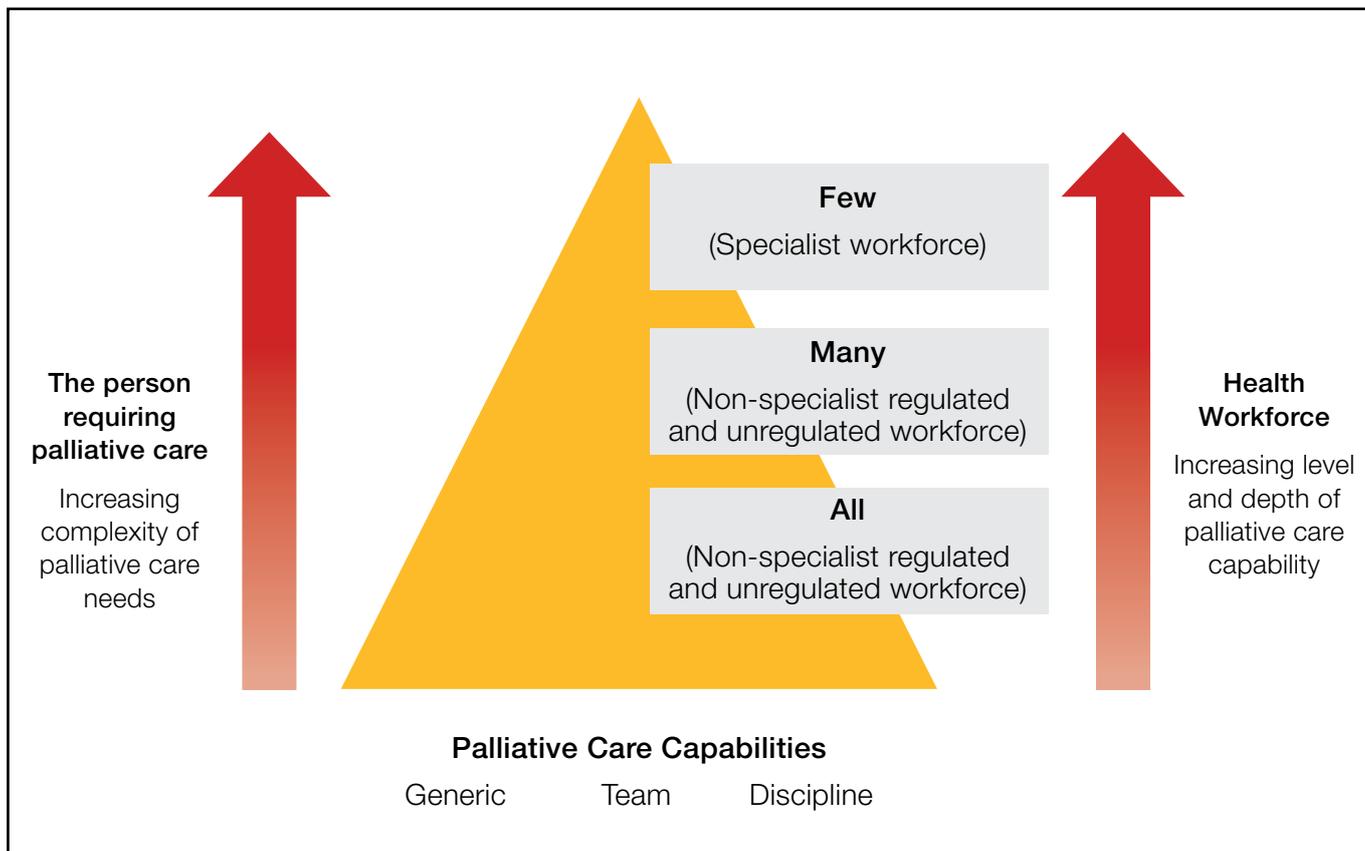
Coming soon! Education and Training Information Hub.

The new Hub will be housed at CareSearch and will be built around the Palliative Care Workforce Development Pathway which has been developed through consultative activities during the past year. The aim of the Hub is to:

- Provide a coordinated approach to delivering education and training in palliative care;
- Enhance the accessibility of palliative care education resources for health professionals; and
- Improve the quality of palliative care education resources available to health professionals.



Figure 1: Draft Palliative Care Workforce Development Model



PCC4U Learning Resources

PCC4U supports the inclusion of palliative care into health care training through the provision of a suite of evidence-based learning resources. The PCC4U modules focus on developing graduate capabilities in palliative care and include a case study, video vignettes and current references.

In 2013 – 2014, the PCC4U learning resources were updated and enhanced. Updated video vignettes for Modules 1, 3 and 4, and Topic 1 are also available.

The core modules articulate with the graduate capabilities in palliative care:

- **Module 1:** Principles of palliative care
- **Module 2:** Communicating with people with life-limiting illnesses
- **Module 3:** Palliative assessment & intervention
- **Module 4:** Optimising function in palliative care

The focus topics aim to support the care of specific populations with life-limiting illness and the provision of palliative care in a variety of contexts:

- **Topic 1.** A multidisciplinary approach in palliative care
- **Topic 2.** Caring for Aboriginal people with life-limiting conditions
- **Topic 3.** Caring for children with life-limiting conditions
- **Topic 4.** Cultural diversity and palliative care

All module and topic content can be accessed at www.pcc4u.org.

All of the PCC4U learning modules and topics are freely available on the project website, along with a palliative care simulation scenario, a multiprofessional case study and palliative care teaching and learning resources. Materials to support use of the resources across a variety of disciplines and learning contexts include:

- an Implementation Guide, with all the module and topic learning content
- a Curriculum Blueprint, that provides a snapshot of module and topic content
- a workbook, with all module and topic thinking points
- a DVD of all video content from the modules, topics and the case scenario
- a USB containing the module and topic videos, guides and supporting documents.

Contact us to discuss implementation of the PCC4U resources and to receive copies of the supporting materials - pcc4u@qut.edu.au.

Hello

This is my first newsletter with PCC4U. I would like to acknowledge the amazing work of my predecessor Alison and wish her well in her new role. I look forward to meeting some of you at the upcoming Australian Palliative Care Conference.

Kylie

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Order resources or subscribe by following the links on the home page at www.pcc4u.org

