

Palliative Care Services

Blue Care is uniquely positioned as one of Australia's leading residential aged care, community care and retirement living providers. We are founded on a compassionate approach to care and our reputation is built on our highly experienced team who work in more than 260 centres, in 80 communities across Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Enhancing aged care through better palliative care.

Service features

Blue Care delivers comprehensive palliative care services to community clients and residents of aged care facilities.

We aim to achieve this through provision of palliative care services, underpinned by a person-centred focus that includes:

- Open communication
- Maintaining personal dignity and choice
- Management of symptoms maximising quality of life

The role of the nurse practitioner

To enhance existing services, Blue Care is introducing the role of the Nurse Practitioner (NP).

The NP role will add more expertise of complex care, giving clients more choices about their care, and place of care at their end of life.

The NP will have expert clinical knowledge of contemporary nursing practice and theory related to palliative care in aged care for clients who are experiencing symptoms associated with advanced progressive disease and who require a palliative approach to care.

The NP will also have high level interpersonal and communication skills, used when liaising with Residential Aged Care Facility staff, acute hospital sector staff and GPs.

The NP will have advanced clinical skills in palliative care, including establishing a diagnosis; ordering necessary diagnostic investigations such as pathology and radiology; and prescribing medication to manage symptoms in accordance with the NP Practice Scope.

The opportunity to facilitate multidisciplinary case conferences with clients and families, involving GP and staff involved with the client's care. This includes providing information about possible disease trajectories and available treatments and care options to assist with decision making.

The nurse practitioner will work collaboratively with the client's GP to provide evidence based strategies for managing complex symptoms, as well as outlining and supporting client and family wishes for ongoing care.

Expected benefits

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of people and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness.

The aim of the project is to provide positive outcomes for clients, allowing them to choose to remain in their own home, thereby reducing hospital admission and reduced re-admission, by providing palliative care support from the NP.

How to engage

The Department of Health and Ageing's "Enhancing aged care through better palliative care" project requires all clients be over 65 years of age to be eligible for referral to the NP.

GP consultation and awareness of the referral is a necessity, as is family understanding and consent for a referral to palliative care NP.

Contact details for NP are detailed at the end of this document.

Area of service

North of the Brisbane river to Gordon park and west to Bellbowrie and Anstead.

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