

PallConsult First Nations Statewide Clinical Yarning Circle

Working Together Principles

About the Statewide Clinical Yarning Circle

The concept of this Yarning Circle is to provide leadership and collaborated education to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce across the areas of chronic disease, cancer care and palliative care. Education topics will be hosted by clinical specialists and co-hosted by emerging leaders within these speciality areas of practice to deliver an opportunity for exploration and yarning about significant topics of interest to participants. This will encourage opportunities to apply this information and collaborative yarning to clinical practice and de-identified cases. We will also develop a Culturally Safe approach to learning and connecting which aligns with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework.

Participants will benefit from:

- increasing knowledge and awareness of chronic disease, cancer care and palliative care from First Nations health professionals
- building respectful relationships to preserve, pass on and gain Cultural Knowledge in an informal way with other clinicians who they trust and respect.

Context

The Queensland Health Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy (the Strategy) was established in 2022 to strengthen palliative care across Queensland. Health equity is at the forefront of the Strategy. One area of Strategy focus aims to increase services and workforce in regional and remote Queensland to ensure delivery of accessible and Culturally Safe services for First Nations peoples, designed with community to support a good death. To that end, funds from the Strategy have been allocated to the First Nations Palliative Care Project, delivered by PallConsult and hosted by Metro South Health.

PallConsult, and the First Nations Palliative Care Project, align to the objective "skilled workforce" under the Strategy, and support the objectives of "access to quality and equitable services" and "individual needs and preferences."

About the PallConsult First Nations Palliative Care Project

The PallConsult First Nations Palliative Care Project is a pilot which:

- works within the PallConsult service model of providing education and support services to health professionals. This Project does not provide direct services to patients.
- aims to improve the capacity of the health care system to meet the palliative and end-of-life care needs of First Nations Queenslanders by increasing culturally and clinically evidence-based, Culturally Safe, and Culturally Responsive care services
- will lead First Nations palliative care delivery by enhancing and developing culturally appropriate resources and clinical tools designed with and for our First Nations Queenslanders
- aims to maximise the confidence, awareness, and capacity of the First Nations health workforce across Queensland by supporting and mentoring clinicians working with First Nations patients, families and communities
- collaborates with other projects funded under the First Nations Community-Based Palliative Care investment package within South-East Queensland, Cairns and Hinterland and Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service regions.



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About the Statewide Clinical Yarning Circle Partners

- **PallConsult Team** - Kat has previously worked in acute and community specialist palliative care services, aged care, emergency, medical, mental health and public health care environments. She is a board member of Palliative Care Queensland & Palliative Care Nurses Australia. Kat's current work is leading the First Nations Palliative Care Project for PallConsult, Queensland Health. Her diverse professional and cultural background brings invaluable insight and will contribute to the delivery of tailored education, training and support for clinicians to provide cultural approaches to end-of-life care for patients, their families and communities.
- **Chronic Disease Management Team** - The Chronic Disease Management Team, Metro South Health, look after culturally and linguistically diverse patients, providing comprehensive care to those who have a complex chronic disease, such as diabetes, respiratory and cardiac conditions.
- **Cancer Care Team, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH)** - Natasha Roberts is a cancer specialist nurse in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. She is undertaking research that aims to understand how cancer services can be more accessible to First Nations Queenslanders.
- **Paediatric Palliative Care Service** - The Paediatric Palliative Care Service (PPCS) is a state-wide service, based in Brisbane, providing palliative and end-of-life care to infants, children and young people with palliative care needs and support for their families and communities. The PPCS provides direct and indirect care and partners with other service providers throughout Queensland and northern NSW. Through a multi-disciplinary team and networks of care, the service strives to provide high quality, equitable and culturally appropriate palliative care that is tailored to patient/family needs and care preferences as close to local communities as possible. The PPCS has recently engaged a First Nations Health Worker as a valued member of the multi-disciplinary team to provide all aspects of cultural care to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families; as well as supporting and educating our health professionals to provide a culturally safe palliative experience for First Nations patients and families.
- **Health Equity Team** - Kaz Perkins is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse Navigator, working to promote the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity strategy. Kaz supports and empowers our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to feel confident in delivering palliative care services to the First Nations community.



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Aims of the Yarning Circle

- To provide opportunities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce in Queensland to work together to increase awareness, confidence, and knowledge of palliative care
- To support the confidence of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce in the delivery of palliative care for First Nations Queenslanders with priorities to be identified by the Aboriginal and community across Queensland
- To increase awareness and understanding with the First Nations health workforce of the priorities and opportunities within palliative care for First Nation Queenslanders, their communities, and families
- Empower members of the Yarning Circle by utilising a strengths-based approach of collaborative knowledge sharing and confidence building within a Culturally Safe space through active listening, sharing and reflection.

Objectives of the Yarning Circle

- Increase and contribute to shared learning, capacity and knowledge building of palliative care, chronic disease and cancer care for First Nations Queenslanders and the health workforce
- Understand how these services work together to form goals of care and goals of hope for First Nations Queenslanders
- Build partnerships and connections for the First Nations health workforce that are Culturally Safe
- Increase awareness of cancer care, chronic disease, and palliative care as career pathways for First Nations workforce and provide evidence-based and best practice professional development and learnings to support this
- Provide collective leadership and mentorship for the First Nations health workforce.

Membership of the Yarning Circle

- Membership is open to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person working in palliative care, delivering input into the care of palliative care patients, interested in palliative care or who would like to learn more about palliative care.
- Members should have a willingness to support collaborative learning, foster relationships across the healthcare sector, engage in meaningful, constructive, positive yarns across healthcare sectors other than and including their own and be active participants in knowledge sharing and growth.



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Meetings

Meetings will be held bi-monthly on the last Tuesday of the month. The first meeting is scheduled for 26 March, 2024.

The First Nations Clinical Yarning Circle Approach

- The Statewide Clinical Yarning Circles will include a First Nations yarning host or a clinical leader from palliative care, cancer care or chronic disease. The PallConsult First Nations Nurse Practitioner and Administration Officer will manage the agenda, communications, and scheduling of the meetings.
- Participants will be able to attend in person if located conveniently to Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative in Eight Mile Plains, Brisbane OR virtually via a Microsoft TEAMS meeting link. Participants are welcome to attend from anywhere in Queensland via TEAMS meeting link.

The Yarning Circle Responsibilities and building respectful relationships

A yarning circle is a harmonious, creative and collaborative way of communicating to:

- encourage responsible, respectful and honest interactions between participants, building trusting relationships, networks of support and Cultural learnings
- foster accountability and provide a safe place to be heard and to respond
- promote First Nations clinician, workforce interactions and community connectedness
- enrich learning experiences for all attendees
- create a space of Cultural sharing, Cultural Safety and debriefing.

Yarning Circle Process and Guidelines

1. **Welcome all Participants and Acknowledgement to Country:** Encourage participants to actively listen to others' views. Participants should understand that they are all considered equal within the circle and that there is no hierarchy.
2. **Introduce the group:** The host invites participants to introduce themselves and share something about themselves.
3. **Introduce focus questions or topics:** Yarning circles can be undertaken for many reasons. The host introduces the purpose of the yarning circle or the focus question to participants.
4. **Share ideas and thoughts:** The host encourages participants to take turns to talk and to promote reciprocal sharing and learning.
5. **Reflect:** Allow time for any closing thoughts, feelings, ideas and any actions or issues identified by the yarning circle, to follow up in future yarning circles.
6. **Confidentiality:** Cases may be discussed and should be de-identified for confidentiality. All participants are expected to uphold the same level and standard of professional and ethical conduct that is expected of all Queensland Health employees or the organisation in which you work.
7. **Autonomy:** Participants are free to join and leave at any time and will be able to address any concerns or issues raised to:

First Nations Project

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Email: firstnations-pallconsult@health.qld.gov.au

