

# PALLIATIVE NEXUS RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## 2025

### Service Innovation & Equity

- **Care Plus Program:** The early integration of palliative care model, Care Plus, has now been expanded to new metropolitan and regional sites, delivering earlier, evidence-based palliative care for advanced cancer—including the “Care Plus Brain” study for high-grade glioma, and “Care Plus Extend” for people with sarcoma, colorectal and lung cancer. Telehealth and outreach improved access for rural and underserved populations.
- **First Nations Cancer Care:** The WCMICS First Nations Cancer Coordinator role established at Royal Melbourne Hospital is now a model for culturally safe, patient- and family-focused care, developed with a First Nations advisory group. An implementation toolkit was launched in July and is available [click here](#)
- **Voices for Palliative Care:** With the input of a dedicated community group, Voices is developing advocacy work to strengthen the voice of lived experience in research, service development, training and in public discussion around palliative care
- **Touchstone Project:** Working with collaborative partners across St Vincent's Health Australia involving Melbourne, Sydney (Davinia Seah) and Brisbane (Phillip Good) palliative care units, Touchstone involves interrogation of existing datasets to understand and improve care for people at the end of life.

### Advocacy & Media

- **Prison Palliative Care:** Prof Jennifer Philip spoke with ABC local radio, radio national and television on pivotal research focusing on enhancing compassionate care for people who are dying while incarcerated - raising awareness and influencing policy discussions.

### Recognition

- **National Palliative Care Awards 2025: Innovation in Palliative Care Award – Jennifer Philip for the Care Plus program.**
- Peter Mac Discovery Partner Fellowship: Dr Aaron Wong
- Best Oral Presentation: COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (Mulcahy & Wilson).

### Some publications that might be of interest

Chang YK, Philip J, van der Steen JT, Van den Block L, Hum AYM, Pérez-Cruz PE, Paiva C, Mori M, Chen PJ, Agar MR, Hanson L, Evans CJ, Hui D. Referral Criteria for Specialist Palliative Care for Patients With Dementia. JAMA Netw Open. 2025 May 1;8(5):e2510298. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.10298.

Wijeyaratne L, Spruijt O, Jayasinghe S, Kane S, Ramadasa U, Philip J. What Is a Good Death in South Asia? A Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis. J Nurs Scholarsh. 2025 Jul;57(4):653-677. doi: 10.1111/jnu.70002. Epub 2025 Mar 18.

Lovell MR, Rizvi F, Luckett T, Agar M, Phillips JL, Boyle FM, Stubbs J, Hucker T, Gawarikar R, Shaheed CA, Lee J, Wong AK, Martin J, Philip J. Update of the Australian Guideline for the Management of Cancer Pain in Adults. Asia Pac J Clin Oncol. 2025 Nov 15. doi: 10.1111/ajco.70047. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41241762.

Wilson MC, Mulcahy M, Philip J, Le BH, Garvey G. Core components of a best practice First Nations cancer coordinator role. Med J Aust. 2025 Jul 7;223(1):19-22. doi: 10.5694/mja2.52684.



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