

Count What Counts

Allied Health Impact Checklist

Allied health professions (AHPs) are often measured by how efficiently they move their clients through the system, while their greatest contribution lies in reducing how many people need the system.

Use this checklist to start naming, capturing and evidencing the impact you make every day, helping build the data needed to strengthen the case for allied health in team-based palliative care in aged care, service design and sustainable funding models.

Things you can try straight away:

1

Notice What Isn't Being Measured



Identify outcomes you deliver that are not routinely captured

Ask: *What would matter most to this person that isn't in our metrics?*

Recognise preventative impacts (e.g. *avoided admissions, maintained function*)

Reflect on where activity \neq value in your current service

2

Name the Value of Your Work

Describe your interventions/services in terms of impact, not just tasks

Link your work to:

- Function
- Independence
- Quality of life
- Carer support

Reframe how you communicate outcomes: shift from "what we did" → "what difference it made"

Use person-centred language in documentation and handover





Over the next few weeks:

3 Capture What Matters

Introduce simple outcome measures relevant to your setting
(e.g. *functional status, goal attainment, confidence/self-efficacy*)

Document when you:

- Prevent deterioration
- Maintain function
- Support staying at home
- Avoid unnecessary admission or intervention

Combine quantitative data + patient stories to demonstrate value

Track small wins - these build powerful narratives over time

Tip: Consider using AI to quickly turn deidentified dot points into narratives

Leading change in Allied Health Practice:

4 Influence Local Practice

Contribute to conversations about service performance and KPIs within your service, or work with senior staff who may be able to escalate your data to the right audience

Advocate for inclusion of:

- Patient-centred outcomes
- Functional measures
- Prevention indicators

Challenge over-reliance on activity metrics alone

Share examples of AHP impact with colleagues and leaders



5 Start Talking About Value and Cost



Reflect on how your work:

- Reduces future healthcare use
- Prevents costly decline
- Supports care outside hospital

Use simple framing:

- “This intervention may reduce future admissions by...”
- “This supports care at home, avoiding...”

Engage with conversations about cost-effectiveness and value-based care

Ensure carer and family outcomes are visible in your documentation

> Supporting your practice: Engage With ELDAC Resources

- The ELDAC [5 Advocacy Tips for Allied Health](#) fact sheet offers suggestions to help link practice to responding to Aged Care Quality Standard 5 – Clinical care, and specifically Outcome 5.7 Palliative and end-of-life care
- Or, if you are wanting to develop a more in depth understanding of working as an allied health clinician within the context of Outcome 5 – why not also check out the new [Allied Health Professional Development Plan](#), from the Research Centre for Palliative Care, Death and Dying (RePaDD).

This checklist was inspired by the advocacy, and early PhD work, from Christopher Tuckett (MSc, MCSP) UK based physiotherapist, discussed in his co-authored ELDAC blog [Allied Health Value Is the Hot Topic We Can't Afford to Ignore](#).

