



Palliative care is a part of aged care.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care supports people with a life-limiting illness to live as well as possible. Its aim is to improve quality of life by focusing on meeting a person's physical, psychological, cultural, social and spiritual needs, as well as supporting the person's family and carers.

What is the benefit of providing palliative care in aged care?

Recognising when a client or resident may be in the last months of life enables care needs to be identified and the family to have time to address concerns and issues. By having their symptoms assessed and managed in their home or residential aged care facility, older Australians can live as well as possible in a place that is familiar to them, without being unnecessarily transferred to hospital. Palliative care does not intend to hasten or postpone death.

Why is palliative care a part of aged care?

The aged care sector cares for many older people in the last months or years of life. Around 35% of all deaths in Australia occur in a residential aged care setting. Palliative care addresses symptoms and concerns to support quality of life for the older person across health changes, decline and death.

Who can provide palliative care in aged care?

Palliative care is provided by various health and care professionals in the aged care setting.

In many cases, care needs of older people nearing the end of life can be met by aged care services via timely and careful care planning and coordination with a multidisciplinary team of experts.

Some older people with complex needs may benefit from a specialist palliative care team's input for pain and other symptom management.