

What is ELDAC?

End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC) is a project that seeks to improve the care of older Australians through palliative care connections and advance care planning activities. The ELDAC project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. It is being delivered by a consortium that brings together three universities and four national bodies from aged care, palliative care and primary care.

The project seeks to promote changes enabling a reduction of avoidable hospital admissions, with shortened stays, and improved quality of care for people supported in residential and community aged care programs.

What we are doing

ELDAC focuses on five streams of work to support the provision of quality care in aged care:

1. Capacity building through access to resources including toolkits that support evidence-based practice.
2. Improved care and service provision through building and embedding technology applications into aged care.
3. Continuing education and learning pathways for aged care.
4. Service and sector development through local and regional partnerships between aged, primary and specialist palliative providers.
5. Developing resources to promote community-wide change in recognition of the important role of palliative care in aged care.

ELDAC is building on existing work. It is using the evidence developed for palliAGED and the expertise of Advance Care Planning Australia.

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.

What is Advance Care Planning?

Advance care planning promotes care that is consistent with a person's goals, values, beliefs and preferences. It prepares the person and others to plan for future health care, for a time when the person may no longer be able to communicate those decisions themselves.