

Pilot Study information

The **End of Life Law for Clinicians (ELLC)** training program **seeks expressions of interest from general practices** who want to participate in the ELLC Pilot Study *Delivering end of life law training in Australian primary and aged care services* (the Pilot Study).

What is End of Life Law for Clinicians?

ELLC is a free online training program for health professionals about Australian laws on end of life decision-making. It is funded by the [Australian Department of Health and Aged Care](#), and delivered by the [Australian Centre for Health Law Research](#) and Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology.

[ELLC's online modules](#) educate health professionals about common legal issues that arise in end of life, palliative and aged care, including:

- » when consent to treatment is required
- » whether a person has decision-making capacity
- » when an Advance Care Directive must be followed
- » who is a person's substitute decision-maker
- » when life-sustaining treatment may be withheld or withdrawn
- » administering pain and symptom relief
- » voluntary assisted dying.

ELLC is a CPD approved course for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the College of Intensive Care Medicine, and the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine.

What is the ELLC Pilot Study?

ELLC is conducting a Pilot Study to implement its online training in a sample of Australian general practices and residential aged care facilities and/or home care services. The Pilot Study will **upskill General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, and nurses in aged care** about end of life decision-making and palliative care.

It aims to explore the extent to which ELLC's end of life law training results in changes to health professionals' knowledge of end of life law, confidence applying the law in practice, and improvements in clinical practice. It will also examine barriers and facilitators to training uptake. Participants will play an important role in evaluating the effectiveness of the ELLC training in general practice and aged care, and recommending improvements.

The Pilot Study has ethics approval from the Queensland University of Technology Human Research Ethics Committee, approval number 7666.

Which general practices are eligible to participate?

In Stage 1 (Primary Care), the Pilot Study is **recruiting general practices** with:

- » Ideally eight or more General Practitioners (GPs) and
- » One or more Practice Nurses (PNs) and
- » One or more Practice Managers.

If your practice is in a regional or rural area and is interested in participating but does not have 8 GPs you may still be able to participate. Please [contact us](#) directly to discuss your eligibility.

General practices may be located anywhere in Australia.

What is involved?

The Pilot Study will run between May 2024 – April 2025.

All GPs and PNs at participating practices will be invited to complete:

- » Seven ELLC online training modules (Modules 1 – 6, and Module 11) (a total of 5.5 hours) between 1 August to 30 September 2024 (for module descriptions view the [ELLC training curriculum](#)).
- » Three short (10-15 minute) anonymous online surveys prior to and after completing the training modules (surveys to be completed in July 2024, October 2024, and April 2025).

Some GPs and PNs will also be invited to participate in two short interviews by telephone or Zoom conferencing (approx. 15-20 minutes/interview). The interviews will be conducted:

- » pre-training (June – July 2024), and
- » post-training (October – December 2024).

Practice Managers will be asked to participate in three short interviews by telephone or Zoom conferencing (approx. 20-30 minutes/interview). The interviews will be conducted:

- » pre-training (July 2024),
- » post-training (October 2024), and
- » 6 months after the training (April 2025).

The practice will also be required to nominate one GP as a Pilot Champion (this role is discussed below).

Prior to the Pilot Study commencing, the Project Manager will meet with the Pilot Champion to discuss implementation. Practices will also be provided with a Pilot guide and a short information session.

What is a Pilot Champion?

The Pilot Champion (a GP at the practice) will support implementation of the Pilot Study at their general practice, in addition to completing the training, surveys and interviews. They will be the main point of contact between the practice and the Study Team.

Their role is to:

- » Provide information to colleagues about the Pilot Study, online training, and timeframes.
- » Regularly meet with the Project Manager (online) during the establishment, online training/survey and interview phases to support Pilot Study implementation at the practice.
- » Notify the Project Manager of any issues that impact participation in the Pilot Study.

This role is not intended to involve a significant time commitment, but rather to provide necessary support to facilitate participation by the practice. Pilot Champions will be provided with a guide to support implementation at their practice.

What are the benefits of participating?

Benefits of participating in the Pilot Study may include:

For GPs and PNs

- » CPD hours from their specialty College (RACGP, ACRRM or nursing professional organisation).
- » Increased confidence, skills and knowledge in decision-making, advance care planning and palliative care.
- » The opportunity to be part of Australian-first research that can improve the end of life experiences of health professionals, patients and families.
- » Access to free legal resources that support optimal end of life decision-making.

- » Improved pain and symptom management for patients at the end of life.
- » Prevention of avoidable hospital admissions and emergency department visits for treatment of end of life issues.
- » Reduced complaints and disputes at the end of life.
- » Gift cards for participating in surveys and interviews:
 - a \$100 Visa gift card for those who complete both the pre-training and post-training surveys.
 - a \$100 Visa gift card for those who complete both the pre-training and post-training interviews.
- » Participants who complete the 6 month follow up survey can elect to enter a prize draw to win one of five Visa gift cards.

For general practices, Practice Managers and Pilot Champions

- » Increased staff confidence, skills and knowledge in decision-making, advance care planning and palliative care.
- » Improved end of life and palliative care service delivery, and better end of life experiences for GPs, PNs, patients and families.
- » Showcase continuous improvement and excellence in quality, safety, and patient-centered care.
- » Meet accreditation requirements under the RACGP Standards for General Practices 5th Edition (read ELLC's [Meeting Quality and Practice Standards in Primary and Community Care](#) guide for information on how the ELLC modules align with these standards).
- » A \$100 gift card for Practice Managers who participate in both the pre-training and post-training interviews.
- » Practice Managers who complete a 6 month follow up interview can elect to enter a prize draw to win one of five Visa gift cards.
- » Gift hampers for Pilot Champions (valued at \$150).

How does my general practice become involved?

General practices interested in participating in the Pilot Study must complete an [expression of interest online](#). **Expressions of interest close Friday 5 April 2024.**

For further information about the Pilot Study contact Penny Neller, Project Manager, at penny.neller@qut.edu.au or phone (07) 3138 2230.