

Pilot Study information

The **End of Life Law for Clinicians (ELLC)** training program **seeks expressions of interest from providers of residential aged care services and/or home care services** 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- » when life-sustaining treatment may be withheld or withdrawn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.

CPD hours are available for completion of the online modules. 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 residential aged care facilities and/or home care services, and general practices. The Pilot Study will upskill nurses and managers at aged care providers 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 aged care practice. It will also examine barriers and facilitators to training uptake. Participating aged care providers will play an important role in evaluating the effectiveness of the ELLC training in 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 aged care providers are eligible to participate?

The Pilot Study is recruiting **large aged care providers in Australia (either residential aged care and/or home care service providers) with more than 25 registered nurses and/or enrolled nurses on staff and at least 2 managers**. These staff can be located across multiple sites operated by the provider. Sites can include residential aged care facilities with home care services, or home care services only.

Aged care providers with facilities or services in metropolitan and/or regional areas are encouraged to apply. If you are unsure about eligibility, please contact Penny Neller, Project Manager at penny.neller@qut.edu.au.

What is involved?

The Pilot Study will run between October 2024 – January 2026. All nursing staff and aged care managers with nursing qualifications (e.g. Directors of Nursing, Clinical nurse coordinators, Case managers) at sites of participating providers will be invited to complete:

- » Seven ELLC online training modules (Modules 1 – 6, and Module 14) (a total of 5.5 hours) between 1 May – 30 June 2025 (for module descriptions view the [ELLC training curriculum](#)).
- » Three short (10-15 minute) anonymous online surveys, prior to and after completing the training modules, (May 2025, July 2025, and January 2026).

Some aged care managers and nurses 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 (March – April 2025), and
- » post-training (July – August 2025).

The provider's senior aged care managers (e.g. CEOs, quality improvement managers, training and education managers) and Site facilitators (discussed below) 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 (March – April 2025),
- » post-training (July – August 2025), and
- » 6 months after the training (January 2026).

The practice will also be required to nominate one Director of Nursing, Clinical Nurse Coordinator or Case Manager as a Site facilitator (this role is discussed below).

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

What is a Site facilitator?

The Site facilitator (a Director of Nursing, Clinical Nurse Coordinator, or Case Manager nominated by the provider) will support implementation of the Pilot Study at their provider's participating sites, 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 their workplace.
- » 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. Site facilitators 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 nurses

- » CPD hours from their 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, residents and families in aged care.

- » 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.
- » 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 aged care providers, managers and Site facilitators

- » Showcase continuous improvement and excellence in high-quality, safe, patient-centered aged care.
- » Meet obligations and requirements under the Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards (Final draft, 2023) (to commence on 1 July 2025). Read [ELLC's Meeting Quality and Safety Standards in Aged Care](#) and [Preparing to meet the Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards \(Outcome 5.7\)](#) guides for information on how the ELLC modules align with the Standards.
- » Increased staff confidence, skills and knowledge in advance care planning, decision-making, and palliative care.
- » Improved end of life and palliative care service delivery, and better end of life experiences for staff, residents and families.
- » Prevention of avoidable hospital admissions and emergency department visits.
- » A \$100 gift card for all aged care managers who participate in both the pre-training and post-training interviews.
- » Senior aged care managers and Site facilitators 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 Site facilitators (valued at \$150).

How do providers become involved?

Eligible aged care providers interested in participating in the Pilot Study must complete an [expression of interest](#) online. **Expressions of interest close Friday 13 September 2024.**



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