

End of Life Law for Clinicians

QUT Ethics Approval Number 7666

Research team

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Why is the study being conducted?

This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care as a National Palliative Care Project.

The purpose of this research project is to improve health professionals' and health professional students' legal knowledge and clinical practice by delivering training about the law relating to palliative and end-of-life care. Research has demonstrated that significant legal knowledge gaps exist amongst health professionals who work in palliative and end-of-life medicine, and that they want to know end-of-life law to help improve their clinical practice and manage legal risk.

This research project involves delivering online training modules on end-of-life and palliative care law, with information on the laws of Australia's eight States and Territories.

You are invited to participate in this research project because you belong to one of the target groups to whom the training will be delivered: doctors, nurses, allied and other health professionals, university medical and health students, and aged care professionals.

As part of online training, you will be asked to complete two short surveys:

1. A pre-training survey to assess your knowledge of end-of-life law and confidence in applying it.
2. A post-training survey following completion of six online training modules. This survey will assess whether your knowledge of law and confidence in applying it has improved and seek your general feedback on the training.

What does participation involve?

Participation will involve completing two anonymous surveys that will take up to 15 minutes of your time.

Questions will include:

1. Knowledge of the law: Thinking about the law relating to palliative and end-of-life care. How much knowledge would you say you have? None; Very little knowledge; Some knowledge; Moderate knowledge; Considerable knowledge.
2. What did you like most about this training?
3. Have you made (or do you intend to make) practice change/s because of knowledge gained from ELLC?

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT. You will be able to review your responses before submitting the survey, and you can discontinue the survey any time by closing your internet browser. As data collected is anonymously, we will not be able to withdraw your survey responses once the survey has been submitted.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that this research project will benefit you directly. You will access training designed to increase your knowledge of end-of-life law and confidence in applying the law in clinical practice. You may be able to claim Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points from your professional college or association for undertaking the training.

The knowledge and understanding of end-of-life law gained by health professionals and students from the training will extend to and improve service delivery in the various service areas these practitioners operate in, including acute care and primary health care settings, oncology, palliative care and intensive care units, and aged cared facilities.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this research project. The main foreseeable risk is inconvenience (e.g. giving up time to participate in research by completing two short surveys).

There is a possibility that you may feel some discomfort about completing surveys on end-of-life legal training given the potentially emotional nature of end-of-life care. The level of discomfort is likely to be small (if any) given the lack of focus on clinical practice in surveys. Survey questions related to clinical practice are focused on the impact of training and intended or actual practice change and you will not be asked to provide any details regarding specific decisions you have made or care you have provided. If any discomfort arises, you can choose to not complete the survey question or to pause or discontinue the survey.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on 07 3138 0999 (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call 13 11 14 for 24 hour telephone crisis support.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential. The survey is anonymous and does not collect any identifying information. Details of clinical practice are not sought in any of the responses.

The research project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and the Department will not have access to the data obtained during the research project.

The post-training survey will be distributed using the email you provided on the ELLC training website. Only the Project Team, and website developers for the research project will have access to the information collected by the training website, except as required by law. The website developers will have access to data in the training website to perform their contract with QUT. The website developers are employed by a professional organisation that will be bound by appropriate privacy regulations.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. We plan to publicly present and publish the results of this research, however, the findings are based on anonymous data that will not identify you.

How do I give my consent to participate?

Submitting the completed online survey is accepted as an indication of consent to participate in the research project.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the researchers listed below.

Ben White	bp.white@qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 4066
Penny Neller	penny.neller@qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 2230
Rachel Feeney	rachel.feeney@qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 4553

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. However, if you do have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the research project you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au. The QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team is not connected with the research project and can facilitate a resolution to your concern in an impartial manner.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS RESEARCH PROJECT.
PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET FOR YOUR INFORMATION.**