

ELLC End of Life Law for Clinicians



A training program to support clinical practice

End of Life Law for Clinicians (ELLC) is a National Palliative Care Project focused on the delivery of end of life law training for clinicians. This summarises the ELLC training program from 2018-2020, and what's next for ELLC.

About ELLC

Research demonstrates that knowledge gaps about end of life law exist among some [specialists involved in end-of-life decision-making](#), and [nurses delivering palliative care](#). Not knowing the law creates risks for clinicians, and can compromise patients' welfare and quality of care.

The aim of the ELLC training program is to deliver training to improve clinicians' knowledge and awareness of the law at end of life, and support their delivery of quality end of life and palliative care.

ELLC is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health as a National Palliative Care Project.

Project team

[Professor Ben White](#) and [Professor Lindy Willmott](#) from Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) Australian Centre for Health Law Research (ACHLR) lead ELLC. The project team includes [Distinguished Professor Patsy Yates](#) (AM, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health, QUT) and [Associate Professor Shih-Ning Then](#) (ACHLR, QUT).

The project is supported by a Project Coordinator and an expert national Advisory Committee. The project team engages with medical Colleges, State and Territory health departments, medical schools and stakeholders across the Australian health sector.

Training program

ELLC comprises:

- 10 free online training modules on palliative and end-of-life law, and
- Case-study based workshops (22 across Australia in 2019-2020).

The training is designed for medical practitioners (specialists, trainees and junior practitioners) and medical students, and is also popular with nurses and allied health professionals.

Training topics

- ❖ The role of law in end of life care
- ❖ Capacity and consent to medical treatment
- ❖ Withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment
- ❖ Advance Care Planning and Advance Care Directives
- ❖ Substitute decision-making for medical treatment
- ❖ Providing palliative medication
- ❖ Children and end of life decision-making
- ❖ Futile or non-beneficial treatment
- ❖ Emergency treatment for adults
- ❖ Managing conflict

Key outcomes in 2018-2020

- 9,366 modules completed by 2,465 registrants since the launch of ELLC's training modules in January 2019.
- Strong demand for ELLC from a diversity of clinicians including medical practitioners, medical students, nurses and allied health professionals.
- 22 workshops and presentations delivered nationally to 1,300 clinicians.
- 7 Australian medical schools adopted ELLC in their curriculum or teaching resources.
- The ELLC modules were accredited by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, and the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine.
- Engaged and collaborated with key stakeholders across the medical, health, palliative care and aged care sectors.

“The ELLC project has made significant contributions to improving and enhancing the medical sector’s awareness of end of life law; access to information about end of life law; and knowledge about end of life law”.

Effective Change Pty Ltd, ELLC's independent Project Evaluator, March 2020

ELLC will deliver:

- the 10 foundation modules (updated) for medical practitioners and students, and nurses and allied health professionals.
- New training resources on end of life law and specific populations - older people; people living with disability; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people who identify as LGBTIQ+; and people from CALD and refugee backgrounds.
- 20 case-study based workshops across Australia (from 2021).

All content will address the diverging laws of Australia's eight States and Territories.

Useful links

- Register for the ELLC training modules at the [End of Life Law for Clinicians training portal](#).
- Visit [End of Life Law in Australia](#) for accurate and relevant information about Australian laws governing end of life decision-making.
- Access practical information about end of life law for the aged care sector in the [End of Life Directions for Aged Care Legal Toolkit](#).

For the latest ELLC news subscribe to our mailing list by contacting us at endoflifelaw@qut.edu.au

What's next

ELLC has been refunded by the Commonwealth Department of Health from 2020-2023.

ELLC will continue to deliver training for medical professionals and students, and expand delivery to meet strong demand from nurses and allied health professionals.

Contact

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