

## Training curriculum 2021–2023

End of Life Law for Clinicians (ELLC) is a free training program for medical practitioners, medical students, nurses and allied health professionals about the law relating to end of life decision-making. It aims 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.

The ELLC training program comprises 12 free online training modules on end of life law, and training workshops delivered nationally.

The modules address the diverging laws of Australia's States and Territories, in conjunction with the website [End of Life Law in Australia](#).

### Online training modules

The ELLC modules contain interactive exercises, legal cases, clinical case studies, vignettes, self-assessment quizzes, and further readings to promote reflective learning. The modules are self-paced, and can be completed on any device.

#### MODULE 1

#### The role of law in end of life care

Three modules are available. Participants should select the module most relevant to their discipline and complete only that module. All participants complete the same Modules 2–12.

##### Medical practitioners and the role of law in end of life care

This module explores what legal issues can arise in practice and what role law plays in end of life care. It also outlines how knowing these laws can help with clinical practice.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

##### Learning outcome

- » Describe the role of law in end of life clinical practice.

##### Nurses and the role of law in end of life care

This module explores what legal issues can arise in nursing practice and what role law plays in end of life care. It also outlines how knowing these laws can help with nursing practice.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

##### Learning outcome

- » Describe the role of law in end of life nursing practice.

##### Allied and other health professionals: The role of law in end of life care

This module explores what legal issues can arise in clinical practice and what role law plays in end of life care. It also outlines how knowing these laws can help with clinical practice.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

##### Learning outcome

- » Describe the role of law in end of life clinical practice.

## MODULE 2

### Capacity and consent to medical treatment

Part 1 of this module explores the requirements of valid consent. Part 2 explores when an adult will have capacity to make decisions about medical treatment.

**Completion time:** 1 hour

#### Learning outcomes

- » Identify when consent to medical treatment is required and when it will be valid.
- » Define the concept of capacity, and explain how it is determined.

## MODULE 3

### Withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment

This module focuses on withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment from adults.

It establishes a foundation for later Modules on Advance Care Planning and Advance Care Directives (Module 4), Substitute decision-making for medical treatment (Module 5), Futile or non-beneficial treatment (Module 8), and Emergency treatment for adults (Module 9).

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

#### Learning outcomes

Identify:

- » When a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment can be made.
- » The circumstances under which such a decision needs or does not need to be followed.

## MODULE 4

### Advance Care Planning and Advance Care Directives

This module explores Advance Care Planning and the law relating to Advance Care Directives, including when an Advance Care Directive can apply, and when it must be followed.

**Completion time:** 1 hour

#### Learning outcomes

Identify:

- » What an Advance Care Directive is, and the information it can contain.
- » When an Advance Care Directive can apply, and when it must be followed.

## MODULE 5

### Substitute decision-making for medical treatment

This module explores who can be a substitute decision-maker for an adult, when they can make decisions, how they should make decisions, and when a substitute decision-maker's decision needs to be followed.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

#### Learning outcomes

Identify:

- » What decisions a substitute decision-maker can make, and how they should make decisions.
- » The appropriate substitute decision-maker for a person who does not have capacity.
- » When a substitute decision-maker's decision needs to be followed.

## MODULE 6

### Legal protection for administering pain and symptom relief

Part 1 of this module explores the law on providing pain and symptom relief at the end of life, and the doctrine of double effect. It explains how the lawful provision of pain and symptom relief is different from voluntary assisted dying. Part 2 considers the legal status of palliative sedation and voluntarily stopping eating and drinking.

**Completion time:** 1 hour

#### Learning outcomes

- » Explain the doctrine of double effect, and its application in practice.
- » Differentiate between the lawful provision of pain and symptom relief, and voluntary assisted dying.

## MODULE 7

### Children and end of life decision-making

This module explores the law relating to parental decision-making about end of life treatment for children (Part 1), and end of life decision-making by competent children (Part 2). The law on emergency treatment for children is discussed in Part 3.

**Completion time:** 1 hour

#### Learning outcomes

- » Identify who may make decisions for children about life-sustaining treatment.
- » Explain when a competent child may be able to consent to or refuse their own treatment.
- » Identify when emergency treatment can be provided to children without consent.

## MODULE 8

### Futile or non-beneficial treatment

This module explores the law about futile or non-beneficial treatment, and when it can be withheld or withdrawn from an adult or child at the end of their life.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

#### Learning outcomes

- » Explain who decides when treatment is futile or non-beneficial, and how it is decided.
- » Identify when a decision to withhold or withdraw futile or non-beneficial treatment can be made.

## MODULE 9

### Emergency treatment for adults

This module explores how the law responds to situations where decisions about emergency (or urgent) treatment are needed for adults. It explains when life-sustaining treatment can be given in an emergency (including whether consent is needed); and when life-sustaining treatment can be withheld or withdrawn in an emergency.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

#### Learning outcomes

Identify when life-sustaining treatment can be:

- » given in an emergency without consent.
- » withheld or withdrawn in an emergency.

## MODULE 10

### Managing conflict

This module explores what legal and other avenues are available to manage conflict around end of life decision-making. The focus is on disputes about treatment for a person who does not have capacity, as this is where conflict most often arises.

**Completion time:** 1 hour

#### Learning outcomes

- » Identify clinical and legal processes for managing disputes where a person does not have decision-making capacity.
- » Describe the role of guardianship bodies, courts and tribunals in resolving disputes about medical treatment.

## MODULE 11

### Voluntary assisted dying

This module explores the law on voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in Australia, and its intersection with laws on medical treatment decision-making, and pain and symptom relief.

**Completion time:** 1 hour

#### Learning outcomes

- » Describe the legal status of (VAD) in Australia
- » Understand the eligibility criteria and processes for accessing VAD in jurisdictions where it is lawful
- » Differentiate between VAD and other practices including providing pain and symptom relief, and withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment.

## MODULE 12

### Australian Indigenous Peoples and end of life law | *Forthcoming mid-2022*

This module explores the law on end of life decision-making in the context of caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and families.

**Completion time:** 30 minutes

#### Learning outcomes

- » Understand legal issues that can arise in the context of caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the end of life.
- » Understand how Australian Indigenous Peoples' cultures, history, and health care experiences can influence end of life care and decision-making.
- » Recognise how health professionals can provide culturally safe end of life care.

### About End of Life Law for Clinicians

The ELLC training program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health as a National Palliative Care Project. It is administered by the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Faculty of Business and Law, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), in partnership with the Faculty of Health, QUT.

This education is a CPD Activity under the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) CPD Program, and an Accredited Activity under the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) Professional Development Program, for the 2020-2022 triennium. ELLC is also approved for 8.5 Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) CPD hours.



CPD points may be claimed from other professional organisations. Certificates of completion are available.

**Register for the ELLC online training modules at:**  
[palliativecareeducation.com.au/course/index.php?categoryid=5](https://palliativecareeducation.com.au/course/index.php?categoryid=5)  
To receive further information and updates, please email [endlifelaw@qut.edu.au](mailto:endlifelaw@qut.edu.au)