**Consultation paper: Review of the National Palliative Care Standards (5th ed)**

PCA has been producing specialist National Palliative Care Standards for over 15 years, with the **objective to improve quality palliative care experiences and outcomes for people, their families, and carers.**

The current suite of quality improvement resources developed by Palliative Care Australia (PCA) includes:

* [The National Palliative Care Standards 5th ed (2018)](https://palliativecare.org.au/publication/standards/)
* [PaCSA](https://palliativecare.org.au/palliative-care-self-assessment-online-portal-pacsa/) –Palliative care self-assessment online portal
* [Palliative Care Service Development Guidelines](https://palliativecare.org.au/publication/quality/) (2018)
* [Paediatric Addendum: Palliative Care Service Development Guidelines](https://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2018/12/PalliativeCare-Paediatricaddendum-2018_web.pdf) (2018)
* [National Palliative Care Standards for All Health Professionals and Aged Care Services](https://palliativecare.org.au/publication/national-palliative-care-standards-for-all-health-professionals-and-aged-care-services/) (*for those not working in specialist palliative care*) (2022)

**Purpose**

The National Palliative Care Standards 5th ed (2018) (the Standards) clearly articulate and promote a vision for compassionate and appropriate specialist palliative care.

A limited-scope review of these Standards is currently being conducted.

The purpose of this limited-scope review isto gather feedback on the Standards and establish:

* how the Standards are currently being used within services,
* how they can be used more effectively and widely to improve quality outcomes for people and their families accessing specialist palliative care services into the future,
* any updates to its content and references required for the current context.

**Audience for the review**

The audience for the Standards review are those to whom the standards are relevant, being specialist palliative care services, including paediatric; specialist palliative care physicians and allied health workforce within palliative care services; PCA’s members organisations including the state and territory palliative care peak organisations and national palliative care workforce peaks; and other relevant stakeholders.

**Background**

The Standards are recognised as a benchmark for the delivery of high-quality specialist palliative care services in Australia. The online Palliative Care Self-Assessment tool (PaCSA) supports this work.

The 5th edition of the Standards is scheduled to be reviewed in 2022-23, based on a five-year cycle. The PCA Board approved for a **‘limited-scope’** review to be undertaken, noting its confidence that an in-depth review of each standard is not required. The currency, objective, and relevance of the existing nine standards was also supported by the NPCS Expert Reference of quality experts, established to lead this review.

**Action required**

PCA is considering how best to support quality improvement in specialist palliative care in the next ten years and into the future.

This Consultation Paper seeks the views of key stakeholders, including those delivering care, on the usefulness and relevance of the Standards for specialist palliative care services in today’s workplaces and quality improvement practices, how services are currently reflecting on and achieving the objectives of the Standards, and how the Standards could be more widely used in the future

Feedback from this consultation will be critical in informing how PCA proceeds with the promotion of and support for quality improvement in specialist palliative care in the future.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Does your service, or do you, use the current National Palliative Care Standards 5th ed. (2018) (the Standards), and why?
2. How does your service use the Standards? *e.g. service design, team planning, advocacy for our services, inform clinical practice.*
3. Are there any barriers or limitations to your service’s use of the Standards?
4. What improvements could be made that would assist services in using the Standards?
5. What tools do you need to support self-assessment against the Standards? *e.g. templates, checklists, videos.*
6. Quality improvement is a part of health care standards broadly; do you have any suggestions on how ways to embed the Standards into existing processes of review?
7. Are consumers/carers involved in your services review against the Standards?
8. Are there any of the nine standards, elements, or content in the document that need to be updated in 2023?

9. What do you think the role will be of the Standards for specialist palliative care over the next ten years, and into the future?

**ONLINE WORKSHOP**

Additionally, **Do you agree to be contacted for secondary online workshop consultations to be held in June 2023?**

*If so, please include contact details for representative.*

*Name:*

*Profession/Role:*

*Email:*

*Mobile:*

**TIMEFRAME**

Written responses to the above Questions for Discussion are required by COB 30 April 2023 to [projects@palliativecare.org.au](mailto:projects@palliativecare.org.au) (**Subject: Standards Review Input**)

Following this process:

* Collated findings will inform the discussion at secondary consultations scheduled for June 2023.
* The Expert Reference Group will then finalise its recommendations to the PCA Board.
* The updated National Palliative Care Standards will then be drafted, reviewed by stakeholders, and published along with any self-assessment tool(s) updates.