

High Quality Palliative Care for all Victorians

It's your right!

Palliative Care Victoria is seeking a commitment from all Victorian political parties to invest in palliative care, to meet the rapidly rising demand.

This commitment will mean that all Victorians with a life-limiting illness, and their families can live, die and grieve well.



PalliativeCare
VICTORIA
Living, dying & grieving well

- > The right to palliative care
- > We need to prepare for the future now!



The right to palliative care

We believe that all Victorians have the right to receive high-quality palliative care that is responsive to their individual needs, provided when and where they wish to receive it and delivered by a team adequately resourced to provide it.

In 2020, 41,093 people died in Victoria. Over 70% could have benefited from palliative care. Currently, not everyone who needs it has access to palliative care.

It is estimated that the demand for palliative care will increase by 50% by 2035 and double by 2050.

We need to prepare for the future now!

With an ageing population, an increasing number of Victorians will require access to palliative care.

The government needs to act now by providing additional funding to meet the service delivery requirements, and to future-proof palliative care provision.

By 2025, an additional \$122 million in annual funding will be required to support the implementation of 'Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework'.

This document provides an overview of the key action items required.



What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is an approach to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-limiting conditions. Prevention and relief of suffering is achieved by means of early identification and impeccable assessment, treatment of pain and other physical, psychosocial, and spiritual problems (World Health Organisation).

Who Can Benefit from Palliative Care?

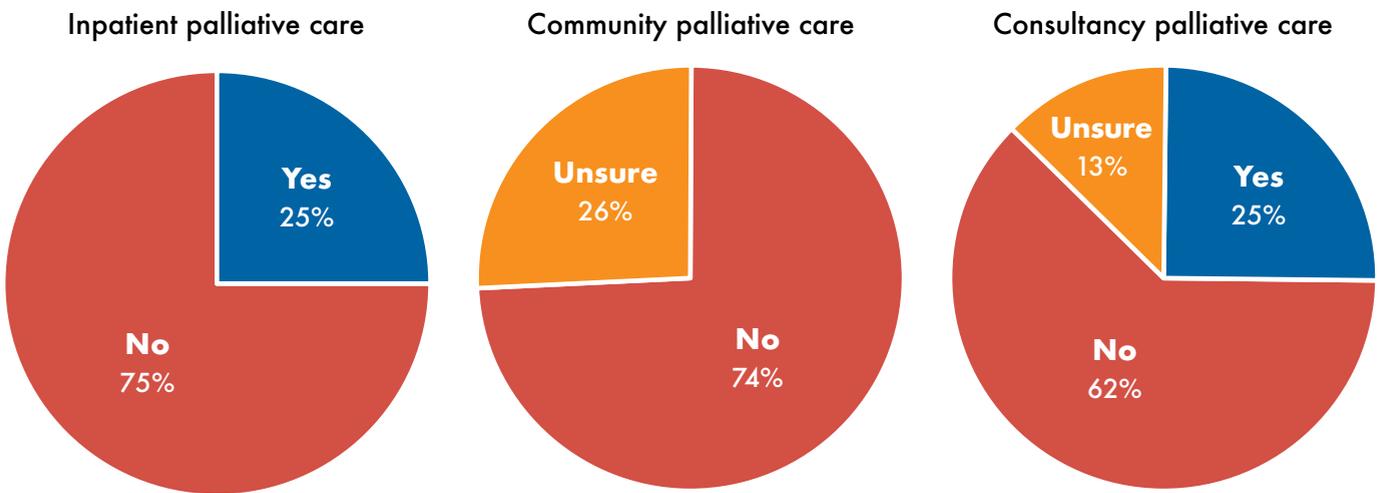
Palliative care is beneficial for people with a wide range of life-limiting conditions of all ages and cultures. These conditions include cancer, end stage organ failure, dementia, other neurodegenerative conditions, and genetic disorders. It is provided on a needs basis from diagnosis, through to bereavement support.

Funding Requirements and Their Applications

People with Palliative Care Needs, Carers, and the Community	Health Professionals*	Palliative Care System
<p>Deliver a strategic community awareness campaign in collaboration with relevant consumers, chronic disease and peak groups across Victoria. This will build and support their capacity to communicate and engage with consumers about palliative care, and end of life care.</p> <p>Target Participation: 20 participating organisations</p> <p>Investment: \$1.8 million a year</p>	<p>Increased investment in community palliative care services to deliver equitable services across the state for all Victorians. This includes after-hours care provision, carer support and introduction to the community palliative care team prior to the end of life supports.</p> <p>Estimated Investment: An additional \$30+ million per year by 2025.</p>	<p>Undertake a review of the current strategic implementation of 'Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework'. Engaging with the palliative care community and utilising Victorian palliative care data.</p> <p>Target: Deliver at a minimum annual state-wide palliative care professional forums to enable sector-wide collaboration and support.</p> <p>Investment: \$100,000 for 2 years.</p>
<p>Face-to-face engagement with communities. Using a proven collaborative approach with community organisations, trained volunteers, and staff to facilitate small group sessions in relevant languages using tailored resources</p> <p>Target Participation: 20,000 Victorians</p> <p>Investment: \$1.8 million a year</p>	<p>Increased availability of consultancy services will provide the opportunity for proactive early introduction to palliative care management, reducing the need for reactive service delivery.</p> <p>Increased investment for in-patient capacity will ensure the required number of beds and workforce is available to meet future requirements.</p> <p>Estimated Investment: Additional \$60+ million per year by 2025.</p>	<p>Increased and equitable access for residents of aged care facilities. Deliver a state-wide approach of specialist palliative care teams providing proactive and responsive clinical support for aged care staff and GPs caring for residents with complex needs.</p> <p>Target: Each residential aged care facility has a designated palliative care team.</p> <p>Investment: \$15.5 million a year</p>
<p>Access to in-home overnight care for the dying person by appropriately trained and qualified staff to relieve carers and reduce avoidable hospital admissions.</p> <p>Target 5,000 nights of care at home</p> <p>Investment: \$6 million a year</p>		<p>Enhance workforce availability, education and models of care.</p> <p>Increase education and workforce development programs to ensure there are enough staff to meet the growing community needs.</p> <p>Increase collaboration across service and education providers to ensure optimal education and models of care are delivered.</p> <p>Investment: \$6.5 million a year</p>

*'The sustainability of palliative care in Victoria 2022' report indicates that palliative care services across Victoria are significantly underfunded. A comprehensive analysis of palliative care funding is required to ensure current and future service requirements can be delivered. The report indicates that the shortfall in funding exceeds \$90 million per year by 2025.

Proportion of palliative care providers who believe they can meet future demand based on current setting, this means people with life limiting illnesses and their family are at increased risk of not having their needs met



The above graphs present findings from the “Sustainability of Palliative Care in Victoria” report (May 2022). This snapshot demonstrates that our workforce is concerned they will not be able to meet future care requirements. This graph also illustrates the majority of Palliative Care Victoria member organisations believe government funding has not kept pace with costs and demand.



Palliative Care Overview 2022



Over the past 5 years, the average annual growth was*

11.9% in demand for services
17.2% for total wage costs; but only
10.2% in total funding available.



The number of services provided grew from*

194,930
in FY 2017
to
354,890
in FY 2021



The total wage bill increased from

64.6 million
in FY 2017
to
135.4 million
in FY 2021

Survey respondents have indicated that the total wage bill makes up **70%** of overall costs



While total funding available increased from

\$87 million
in FY 2017
to
\$170 million
in FY 2021



The shortfall in funding is estimated to increase from

\$24 million
in FY 2021
to
\$91.2 million
in FY 2025 in nominal terms.

To maintain current levels of service delivery



Over the next three years, survey respondents have indicated that an additional

502
full-time equivalent staff

will be needed to help meet the increasing demand for palliative care services in Victoria.

*Reported in The Sustainability of Palliative Care in Victoria (2022)

The remaining figures have been estimated based on feedback in the above report - due to lack of publicly available data.



Palliative Care Victoria

Palliative Care Victoria is an independent not-for-profit peak body in Victoria. Established in 1981, we represent palliative care providers, people with palliative care needs and their families, and those with an interest in palliative care in Victoria. We are a member of the national peak body, Palliative Care Australia.



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