



Palliative Care  
Victoria

# PCV 2026 Summit

**EVERY VOICE COUNTS:**  
Collaborative Approaches to Palliative Care

Friday 15 May 2026  
Centrepiece, Melbourne Park

| Session              | Time          | Presenter   |
|----------------------|---------------|---|
| MC Welcome           |               | Assoc Prof Jaclyn Yoong<br>Medical Oncologist and Palliative Care Physician<br>Northern Health and Monash Health        |
| Welcome to Country   | 9:00am - 9:15 | Aunty Di Kerr<br>Wurundjeri Elder   |
| Formal Event Opening | 9:15 - 9:35   | TBC<br>Minister for Health<br>Victorian Government  |
| Keynote 1            | 9:35 - 10:00  | Assoc Prof Mark Boughey<br>Victorian Chief Palliative Care Advisor<br>Department of Health, Victoria                    |
| Keynote 2            | 10:00 - 10:25 | Kat Hooper<br>Proud Worimi decedent<br>First Nations Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner<br>Queensland Health Department |
| Keynote 3            | 10:25 - 10:50 | Dr Jane Tracy<br>Associate Investigator<br>Murdoch Children's Research Institute  |
| <i>Morning Tea</i>   |               |   |

Continued



| Session               | Time          | Presenter   |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Concurrent Sessions   | 11:30 - 1:00  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Palliative Care Contemporary Issues               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Voluntary Assisted Dying</li> <li>» Grief and Bereavement</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Pathways to the Dreaming</li> <li>3. Supporting People with Disability in End-Of-Life Planning and Care</li> <li>4. Dementia and Palliative Care: Enabling Person-Centred Support</li> <li>5. When a Client Dies: Supporting Grief in Caring Roles</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Lunch</i>          |               |   |
| Concurrent Sessions   | 1:45 - 3:15   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Palliative Care Population Approaches               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Multicultural Perspectives on End of Life</li> <li>» Caring for Those Who Care</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Building Cultural Connections Through Mentoring and Support</li> <li>8. Supporting the Disability Workforce</li> <li>9. A Palliative Approach to Complex Dementia Care</li> <li>10. When a Client Dies: Supporting Grief in Caring Roles (repeat of morning session)</li> </ol> |
| <i>Afternoon Tea</i>  |               |   |
| Keynote 4             | 3:45 - 4:10   | Adj Assoc Prof Stephen Macfarlane<br>Head of Clinical Services<br>Dementia Support Australia  |
| International Keynote | 4:10 - 5:00   | Prof Kimberly Acquaviva<br>University of Virginia   |
| Rainbow Hour          | 5:00 - 6:00pm | Introduced by Joe Ball<br>Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities  |

[Click here to register!](#)

# Concurrent Sessions

Morning Sessions (11:30am - 1:00pm)

## 1. Palliative Care Contemporary Issues

### *Voluntary Assisted Dying*

Join our panel of experts as we discuss contemporary issues about Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), explore how things currently are and anticipated changes due in 2027.

**Panel Chair:** Emeritus Professor Margaret O'Connor AM, CF

**Panel members:**

- Adj A Prof Kelly Rogerson - CEO Palliative Care SE
- Holly Pitt - NUM - Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- Nicky Stitt - VAD Navigator

### *Grief and Bereavement - perspectives from the frontline*

The panel will explore, access to services and pathways for support for staff as well as those we care for.

**Panel Chair:** Janet Philips - CEO Peninsula Home Hospice

**Panel members:**

- Meg Moorhouse - Clinical Lead, Bereavement Team, Melbourne City Mission
- TBC - panel member representing Older Adults wellbeing
- TBC - Panel member representing disability sector

## 2. Pathways to the Dreaming

Hear from leaders in the First Nations Community about a range of cultural considerations and approaches in palliative and end of life care.

Cultural safety as a Non-Negotiable Standard of Care. Kat Hooper will discuss use of storytelling as Healing and Education.

AJ Williams-Tchen will introduce the PCV Project for culturally safe palliative care planning with First Nations people living in Victorian Residential Aged Care Facilities.

Andrea Casey and Jay Hamann - Aboriginal Liaison Officers will discuss Providing culturally safe end-of-life care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients requires sensitivity to the cultural, spiritual and family centred.

Continued



### 3. Supporting People with Disability in End-of-Life Planning and Care

These three sessions will provide perspectives from:

1. Uli Cartwright will be speaking to a person with lived experience, considering end of life when living with a disability. Uli will provide perspectives on the lasting impact and burden that death has on people with lifelong Disability and what healthcare professionals should keep in mind when speaking to someone about death and dying. Uli will then be interviewed by Mary Henley-Collopy (as a person with lived experience of disability) to dive deeper into the topic.
2. Catherine Joyce, National Manager from Advance Care Planning Australia, will discuss how Advance Care Planning can support people with disabilities. This will explore the role of disability services, challenges faced by providers, work currently being undertaken in this area and some practical take away messages.
3. A panel discussion will then explore the complexities involved in supporting people at the end of life who live with disabilities. Jill Carter from Palliative Care at Home with Carina Valenti from Scope will explore several situations where teams collaborated to ensure best outcomes for the person in their home environment. This panel will be moderated by Janet McLeod from Melba Support Services.

### 4. Dementia and Palliative Care: Enabling Person-Centred Support

This session will explore how palliative care can support a person living with dementia within an aged care environment underpinned by person centred care principles. Dr Aaron Wong, Geriatrician, Palliative Care Physician, and Cynthia Goh, Palliative Care Fellow, will discuss what considerations and challenges to expect across the care continuum as well as offer 12 Top Tips for clinical practice. Carol Barbeler, experienced Palliative Aged Care Clinical Nurse Consultant, will then lead attendees through two interactive case studies based on real scenarios to illustrate how these principles can be applied in day-to-day practice.

Aaron - Geriatrician and Clinical Director of Palliative Care, Eastern Health.

Carol - Palliative Aged Care and Disability Resource Nurse, Gippsland Palliative Care Consortia.

### 5. When a Client Dies: Supporting Grief in Caring Roles

Facilitated by Christopher Hall and Eszter Cowie - Grief Australia

Grief in caring roles is often unspoken, shaped by professional boundaries, repeated loss and the quiet expectation that you will keep moving. This workshop creates a safe, practical space for palliative care workers, disability support workers and volunteers to name what they are experiencing, build coping skills and find pathways to support. Drawing on current grief research, the session addresses disenfranchised grief, cumulative loss and the particular pressures of caring roles. You will leave with four evidence-informed tools you can use immediately and a clear map of the support available to you.

## Afternoon Sessions (1:45pm - 3:15pm)

### 6. Palliative Care Population Approaches

This session will feature two panel discussions: one on multicultural perspectives on end-of-life care and the other on caring for those who care. Drawing on both professional expertise and lived experience, panelists will explore the needs, challenges, and opportunities for better supporting these communities.

### 7. Building Cultural Connections through Mentoring and Support

AJ Williams-Tchen will provide an overview of Aboriginal mentoring and Support before Sammy Trist from Gunuwarra Art and Education takes attendees through a Cultural Connection Art Therapy Workshop.

### 8. Supporting the Disability Workforce

Three sessions will delve into how best to help the disability workforce to achieve best outcomes for people when delivering palliative care.

1. Maria Heaton from UNSW will be providing a discussion virtually on inequities for people with disabilities accessing palliative care and the impacts on the workforce. Maria will speak from both a personal and professional perspective.
2. Nadia Garcia from Yooralla will talk about the background and development of an Assessment and Referral Tool designed to identify deterioration in people living in supported accommodation. Nadia will discuss the identified need for such a tool and some of the challenges associated with its evolution. Future directions will then be explored.
3. Our last panel will discuss the role of supported decision making with end-of-life care. Carolyn Gill, Liz Jesudason and Julie Duke from Scope will explore some of the challenges in providing palliative and end of life care in supported living situations. How the wishes of the person can be in conflict with organisational policies and procedures and the impacts of this.

Continued



---

## 9. A Palliative Approach to Complex Dementia Care

This session led by Meg Storer – Delirium/Dementia Nurse Practitioner Candidate and Kaye Hose, Nurse Practitioner Older Persons Complex Care, will explore how to meet the palliative care needs of a person with complex symptoms associated with dementia. Using examples from personal clinical experiences, they will discuss:

- how to support Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) using a palliative approach,
- provide strategies when talking with patients, families and other care partners, and
- who to contact for additional support when supporting a person in a community setting

---

## 10. When a Client Dies: Supporting Grief in Caring Roles

Facilitated by Christopher Hall and Eszter Cowie – Grief Australia

Grief in caring roles is often unspoken, shaped by professional boundaries, repeated loss and the quiet expectation that you will keep moving. This workshop creates a safe, practical space for palliative care workers, disability support workers and volunteers to name what they are experiencing, build coping skills and find pathways to support. Drawing on current grief research, the session addresses disenfranchised grief, cumulative loss and the particular pressures of caring roles. You will leave with four evidence-informed tools you can use immediately and a clear map of the support available to you.

---



[Click here to register!](#)