

Gold Coast 5th Annual Palliative Care Conference

“The Art and Science of Living Well While Dying Well”

Thursday 11th and Friday 12th June 2026

Gold Coast University Hospital, PED Building, 8:15am to 5:00pm

Time	Thursday 11 th June Session Information
7:30 - 8:15am	Registration
8:15 – 8:45am	Welcome & Acknowledgement to Country Welcome & Housekeeping Dr Andrew Broadbent, Medical Director, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Katherine Richards, Service Lead, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
<i>Palliative Care Big Picture & Compassionate Communities – Session Chair, Laurelle Stalker</i>	
8:45 – 9:45am	Palliative Care Big Picture A/ Prof Jo Doran, Staff Specialist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
9:45 – 10:15am	Compassionate Communities Harpreet Kalsi-Smith, Founder & Managing Director, The Kindness Company
10:15 – 10:25am	In Flow: Kawa Model Activity Introduction Emily Mitchell, Advanced Occupational Therapist, SPaRTa
10:25 – 10:45am	Morning Tea
<i>The Interprofessional Approach to Cancer Pain Control – Session Chair, Lisa Tranter</i>	
10:45 – 11:15am	Giving Control Back: A Patient’s Journey with Subcutaneous Analgesia Heleni Georgiou, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Lorna Chess-Williams, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
11:15 – 11:45am	The Evolving Landscape of Palliative Radiotherapy Mary Job, Advanced Practice Palliative Radiation Therapist, Radiation Oncology Mater Center
11:45 – 12:15pm	The High Road - A Balanced Review of Once Illicit Pharmacotherapy Dr Alex Soobratty, Staff Specialist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
12:15 – 12:45pm	Non-Pharmacology Approaches to Symptom Management Tania Alloway, Senior Physiotherapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
12:45 – 1:45pm	Lunch
<i>In Flow: Duality of Living Well While Dying Well – Session Chair, Emily Mitchell</i>	
1:45 – 2:15pm	The Elephant in the Room – Preparing Young People for the End of Life Anita Cox, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
2:15 – 2:45pm	Understanding the Different Challenges Faced by Older Adults when Choosing to Die at Home Julie Jackson, Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Dawn Leigh, Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
2:45 – 3:15pm	Supporting Older Adults with MND to End of Life Tara Quinn, Senior Occupational Therapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Simone Reid, MND Advisor & Support Coordinator, MND Queensland

3:15 – 3:25pm	Palliative Rehabilitation in Practice: Supporting Quality of Life & More Time at Home Stephen Bode, Senior Physiotherapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Trent Jacques, Senior Physiotherapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Montana Zillfleisch, Senior Occupational Therapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
3:25 – 3:40pm	Die Laughing Carolyn Mandersloot, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Palliative Care, South-West Hospital & Health Service
3:40 - 4:40pm	Panel Discussion - Interprofessional Practice Panel Chair – Tracey Norling, Nurse Practitioner, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Panel Members – Anita Cox, Dawn Leigh, Julie Jackson, Tara Quinn, Simone Reid, Carolyn Mandersloot
5:00 – 8:00pm Networking Event with Nibbles & Refreshments, Griffith University Bar	

Time	Friday 12 th June Session Information
8:15 - 8:30am	Welcome Dr Andrew Broadbent, Medical Director, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Katherine Richards, Service Lead, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
Spirituality & Post-Traumatic Grief – Session Chair, Marilyn Lewis	
8:30 – 9:15am	Spirituality Venerable Tsultrim (Carla Pearce) Spiritual Care Practitioner/ Counsellor
9:15 – 10:00am	Post Traumatic Grief Rhee Duthie, Sector Engagement & Development Manager, Volunteering QLD
10:00 – 10:30am	Morning Tea
The Interprofessional Approach to Grief and Bereavement – Session Chair, Merryn Gray	
10:30 – 10:50am	Best Practical Tips in Grief & Bereavement for Clinicians Dean Vuksanovic, Senior Psychologist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Lynn Berger, Clinical Lead, Psychologist Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
10:50 – 11:10am	Staff Wellbeing - Building the Best Culture of Resilience (GCHHS & SPaRTa perspective) Montana Zillfleisch, Senior Occupational Therapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Alison Harris, Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
11:10 – 11:30am	Managing Grief After Hours in an Acute Care Setting Katie Sully, Clinical Facilitator, Infectious Diseases/ Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
11:30 – 12:30pm	Panel Discussion – What We've Learned Panel Chair: Merryn Gray, Grief and Bereavement Care Coordinator, SPaRTa Panel Members: Dean Vuksanovic, Lynn Berger, Rhee Duthie, Tsultrim, Alison Harris, Katie Sully
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch
Communication – Session Chair, Anita Cox	
1:30 – 3:30pm	Mastering Tough Conversations Tracey Norling, Nurse Practitioner, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Matilda Nicholson, Senior Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Dr Shantona Bag, Staff Specialist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Dr Joanne Cerni, Staff Specialist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
3:30 – 4:00pm	In Flow — Interprofessional Practice Remix & Conclusion Emily Mitchell, Advanced Occupational Therapist, SPaRTa
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