

# 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 <sup>th</sup> June Session Information
7:30 - 8:15am	<b>Registration</b>
8:15 – 8:45am	<b>Welcome &amp; Acknowledgement to Country</b> 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 &amp; Compassionate Communities – Session Chair, Laurelle Stalker</i>	
8:45 – 9:45am	<b>Palliative Care Big Picture</b> A/ Prof Jo Doran, Staff Specialist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
9:45 – 10:15am	<b>Compassionate Communities</b> Harpreet Kalsi-Smith, Founder & Managing Director, The Kindness Company
10:15 – 10:20am	<b>In Flow: Kawa Model Activity Introduction</b> Emily Mitchell, Advanced Occupational Therapist, SPaRTa
10:20 – 10:45am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
<i>The Interprofessional Approach to Cancer Pain Control – Session Chair, Lisa Tranter</i>	
10:45 – 11:15am	<b>Giving Control Back: A Patient’s Journey with Subcutaneous Analgesia</b> 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	<b>The Evolving Landscape of Palliative Radiotherapy</b> Mary Job, Advanced Practice Palliative Radiation Therapist, Radiation Oncology Mater Center
11:45 – 12:15pm	<b>The High Road - A Balanced Review of Once Illicit Pharmacotherapy</b> Dr Alex Soobratty, Staff Specialist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
12:15 – 12:45pm	<b>Non-Pharmacology Approaches to Symptom Management</b> Tania Alloway, Senior Physiotherapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
12:45 – 1:45pm	<b>Lunch</b>
<i>In Flow: Duality of Living Well While Dying Well – Session Chair, Emily Mitchell</i>	
1:45 – 2:15pm	<b>The Elephant in the Room – Preparing Young People for the End of Life</b> Anita Cox, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
2:15 – 2:45pm	<b>Understanding the Different Challenges Faced by Older Adults when Choosing to Die at Home</b> Julie Jackson, Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Dawn Leigh, Social Worker, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
2:45 – 3:15pm	<b>Supporting Older Adults with MND to End of Life</b> Tara Quinn, Senior Occupational Therapist, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Simone Reid, MND Advisor & Support Coordinator, MND Queensland

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<b>3:15 – 3:25pm</b>	<b>Palliative Rehabilitation in Practice: Supporting Quality of Life &amp; More Time at Home</b> 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
<b>3:25 – 3:40pm</b>	<b>Die Laughing</b> Carolyn Mandersloot, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Palliative Care, South-West Hospital & Health Service
<b>3:40 - 4:40pm</b>	<b>Panel Discussion - Interprofessional Practice</b> 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
<b>5:00 – 8:00pm Networking Event with Nibbles &amp; Refreshments, Griffith University Bar</b>	

Time	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June Session Information
8:15 - 8:30am	<b>Welcome</b> Dr Andrew Broadbent, Medical Director, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health Katherine Richards, Service Lead, Specialist Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
<b>Spirituality &amp; Post-Traumatic Grief – Session Chair, Marilyn Lewis</b>	
8:30 – 9:15am	<b>Spirituality</b> Venerable Tsultrim (Carla Pearce) Spiritual Care Practitioner/ Counsellor
9:15 – 10:00am	<b>Post Traumatic Grief</b> Rhee Duthie, Sector Engagement & Development Manager, Volunteering QLD
10:00 – 10:30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
<b>The Interprofessional Approach to Grief and Bereavement – Session Chair, Merryn Gray</b>	
10:30 – 10:50am	<b>Best Practical Tips in Grief &amp; Bereavement for Clinicians</b> 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	<b>Staff Wellbeing - Building the Best Culture of Resilience (GCHHS &amp; SPaRTa perspective)</b> 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	<b>Managing Grief After Hours in an Acute Care Setting</b> Katie Sully, Clinical Facilitator, Infectious Diseases/ Palliative Care, Gold Coast Health
11:30 – 12:30pm	<b>Panel Discussion – What We've Learned</b> 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	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Communication – Session Chair, Anita Cox</b>	
1:30 – 3:30pm	<b>Mastering Tough Conversations</b> 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	<b>In Flow — Interprofessional Practice Remix &amp; Conclusion</b> Emily Mitchell, Advanced Occupational Therapist, SPaRTa
<b>Enquiries:</b> <b>P: 1300 763 218 E: GCHPallCareEvents@health.qld.gov.au</b>	

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