

Launch of Victoria's New Palliative and End of Life Care Framework

On 15 May the Victorian Minister for Health, The Hon Harriet Shing MP, launched Victoria's new Palliative and End of Life Care Framework 2026-2036, providing a refreshed direction for the state's palliative care services over the next decade after conducting sector consultation and listening to expert evidence and the lived experience of people receiving care. Priorities of the refreshed framework include delivering more care at home, better supporting families and carers, a greater focus on holistic patient needs, strengthening the interdisciplinary workforce, improving system interfaces and care pathways and improving the use of technology and data.

The framework recognises that meeting growing community needs will require better coordination and collaboration between hospitals, aged care, disability, community palliative care and primary care providers, and across disciplines. It also calls for more flexible models of care that support people to remain at home for longer and reflect each person's values, preferences and end of life choices.

In October 2025, the Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing made a submission to the consultation. The Centre emphasised greater articulation of cultural safe and inclusive practice. On reviewing the newly released framework it is encouraging to see greater consideration given to diversity including cultural and linguistic diversity, especially as set out in Priority direction 2 – Support people's holistic needs and those of carers, families, and loved ones.

In profiling the Victorian community over the next 10 years the framework even makes the following points that:

- *Deaths among multicultural Victorians are projected to increase by 28% over the next decade, compared with 8% for other Victorians.*
- *Our multicultural communities are ageing, with increasing need for culturally responsive care.*
- *Fear of stigma and concerns about whether services will be culturally safe and inclusive can lead some people to delay or avoid care, leading to poorer outcomes and increased distress for loved ones.*

Opportunities for change and actions identified in the framework include:

- *Provide clear, staged information to support effective conversations— what palliative care is, what to expect, and how to plan – through a single, trusted source available in multiple formats and appropriately tailored for key audiences such as multicultural communities and First Peoples.*

- *Commit to culturally responsive care by co-designing approaches and services that respect and reflect diverse values, traditions, and needs.*
- *Address health service policies that may be a barrier to cultural practices around the end of life so that people and their carers and families are supported to approach dying and death in a way that aligns with their values and beliefs.*

For more information, visit their webpage: [Victoria's palliative and end of life care framework](#) or contact the Victorian Government Palliative Care team via pallcare@health.vic.gov.au.