

About the Advance Project™

What is the Advance Project™?

The Advance Project™ is a practical, evidence-based toolkit and a training package, specifically designed to support Australian general practices to implement a team-based approach to initiating advance care planning (ACP) and palliative care into everyday clinical practice.

The Advance Project™ Toolkit and training program were informed by literature reviews and extensive input and feedback from our expert advisory group, GPs, general practice nurses, practice managers and consumer representatives.

Three different online training activities, specifically tailored to the unique learning needs of Australian GPs, nurses and general practice managers, explain how to use the evidence-based resources in general practice.

The online training for activity for General Practitioners has been accredited by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).



The online training activity for nurses has been [endorsed by the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association \(APNA\)](#) according to approved quality standards criteria.



Who is it for?

- Registered and enrolled nurses who are currently working in Australian general practice
- General Practitioners currently working in Australia
- General Practice Managers of Australian general practices

Online training and individual tele-mentoring support from a specialist palliative care nurse mentor is available.

What is the aim of the Advance Project?

The Advance Project aims to enable better healthcare outcomes in Australian GP practices through:

- enabling earlier consideration and uptake of ACP
- enabling more efficient use of GP and nurse time in providing palliative and supportive care
- enabling more appropriate and timely referrals to specialist palliative care services if required
- increasing confidence and comfort levels for primary care clinicians to initiate conversations with patients and their carers about ACP and palliative/supportive care
- upskilling general practice managers to support GPs and general practice nurses overcome any barriers to successful implementation of the Advance Project tools and resources into routine practice.

What are the benefits of the Advance Project for general practice?

The Advance Project™ training will help GPs and general practice nurses to work with each other to initiate ACP and, where appropriate, palliative care for older and/or chronically ill patients within the practice. The project training will also enable practice managers to support GPs and nurses to implement the Advance Project™ resources in their general practice.

This team-based initiation of ACP and palliative care will:

- help break down some of the barriers to ACP in general practice
- enable the practice to more efficiently:
 - identify patients who might be at risk of deteriorating and dying
 - assess and address the supportive care needs of patients who might be at risk of deteriorating and dying
 - assess and address the needs of carers of patients who might be at risk of deteriorating and dying
 - help identify patients who might benefit from early referral to specialist palliative care services.

How much time will it take to complete the training and what does it cover?

Nurses

The FREE online training covers concepts such as:

- Learning to initiate palliative care and ACP in general practice in a routine and sensitive way;
- Learning how nurse facilitated screening of patients and their carers will support general practices to more efficiently address patients' and carers' needs; and
- Developing skills to use the Advance Project™ screening and assessment tools.

This online training activity for nurses will take approximately two hours to complete, or up to three hours if you provide extensive responses to the reflective components and review all of the optional links and resources.

The online training activity for nurses has been [endorsed by the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association \(APNA\)](#) according to approved quality standards criteria.

GPs

The FREE online training covers concepts such as:

- Learning about the role of GP and general practice in Advance Care Planning and palliative care
- Learning how evidence-based tools can be used to initiate Advance Care Planning discussions and assess patients and carers palliative and supportive care needs
- Learning how specialist palliative care services can support general practice in this role, if required.
- Learning how to initiate Advance Care Planning discussions and assess palliative and supportive care needs using the Advance Project™ Guide and assessment tools.

This online training activity will take approximately two hours to complete. You can leave the online training activity at any time and return to where you left off next time. This online training activity for General Practitioners has been accredited by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

Practice Managers

The FREE online training covers concepts such as:

- Learning about the benefits and role of general practice in ACP and early identification and assessment of patients' palliative and supportive care needs.
- Learning about the resources available through the Advance Project™ to assist general practices implement a systematic approach to initiating ACP and assessment of palliative and supportive care needs .
- Learning how practice managers can support GPs and general practice nurses to start implementing the Advance Project™ resources into everyday clinical practice.

The online training for practice managers is covered in three learning modules. Module one takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, module two takes up to 40 minutes and module three takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Tele-mentoring

FREE tele-mentoring with our specialist palliative care nurse is available to support individual clinicians and general practices to implement the Advance Project™ resources into their clinical practice. The tele-mentoring can be tailored to the learning needs of individual participants (nurses, GPs and practice managers) and general practices.

How is the training funded and delivered?

The program is available FREE of charge for nurses, GPs and practice managers working in Australian general practices. The Advance Project™ is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and delivered by a national consortium. There is FREE online training and resources, and FREE individualised mentoring and support from a specialist palliative care nurse mentor. Grants and train-the-trainer support will also be available for selected champion networks to deliver face-to-face training and support implementation locally. The training will count towards continuing professional development requirements and you will receive certificates of completion for the online training and face-to-face workshops.

Would you like to know more?

- You can [watch a brief video about the Advance Project](#) training program.
- Contact our experienced specialist palliative care nurse educator, Ms Kelly Arthurs. Email: karthurs@hammond.com.au OR
- Contact the Advance Project™ team. Email: AdvanceProject@hammond.com.au

How do I get started?

You can start by [registering for the project](#) which will enable you to see a range of Advance resources and will show you how to sign up for the eLearning.