



Eastern Melbourne

Primary Health Care Collaborative

END OF LIFE CARE PROJECT

Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Care Collaborative (EMPHCC) is a joint initiative involving Eastern Melbourne PHN (EMPHN), Eastern Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, Community Health and Primary Care Partnerships. EMPHCC is overseen by a Governance Group, and a Strategic Alliance works to develop projects and opportunities for improvement across the Eastern Melbourne catchment. The Alliance has identified End of Life Care as a priority project for 2017/18.

End of life care is a well-recognised priority area, both nationally and locally, with Australia's rate of dying at home being comparatively low compared with other similar OECD countries. The Grattan Institute report, *Dying Well* (Swerrissen and Duckett, 2014) states "in the next 25 years the number of Australians who die each year will double. People want to die comfortably at home, supported by family and friends and effective services." Whilst acknowledging that people want to be able to die in their place of choice, there are numerous factors that prevent this from happening for many people.

Reporting to the EMPHCC Strategic Alliance, a working group has been established to undertake this project. The working group will conduct an in depth investigation into the issue of people not being able to die in their place of choice. The working group will then co-design potential solutions to ensure more people are supported to die in their place of choice.

As part of the investigation the working group is conducting a survey of organisations to assist with service mapping and understanding the issues from a stakeholder perspective. The group is also wanting to understand the experiences of staff who work in the area and who have contact with individuals and families/carers at end of life. It would be appreciated if someone could complete the survey on behalf of your organisation.

The working group is holding a workshop on Thursday 29 June, from 8.30 am until 1.00 pm, which we encourage all stakeholders to attend. Using Eastern Health's *Rapid Improvement Methodology* we will consider how many people die in their place of choice and when they do not, consider why not. The event will be used to seek input into identifying solutions that the working group will further develop.

If you can't attend the workshop, but would like to stay informed on this project, please provide your details. For more information or to find out more about the Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Care Collaborative or End of Life Care program, please contact Lisa Paulin, Service Improvement Facilitator at Eastern Melbourne PHN, on 9046 0300 or via email at lisa.paulin@emphn.org.au.