SA Health’s vision is for South Australians to experience high quality care at the end of their life.

The SA Health End of Life Care Strategy Program Board provides leadership and offers strategic oversight and advice on the design, planning and implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy for South Australia.

Our current members are:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michele McKinnon (Chair)</td>
<td>Department for Health and Wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Swetenham</td>
<td>Southern Adelaide Palliative Services</td>
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<td>Margaret Brown</td>
<td>University of South Australia</td>
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<td>Dr Chris Moy</td>
<td>General Practitioner</td>
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<td>Helen Walker</td>
<td>Southern Adelaide Palliative Services</td>
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<td>Mary Dickson</td>
<td>Adelaide Primary Health Care Network</td>
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<td>Prof Jennifer Tieman</td>
<td>Flinders University</td>
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<td>Judy Smith AM</td>
<td>Consumer representative</td>
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<td>Michele Sutherland</td>
<td>Department for Health and Wellbeing</td>
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What does high quality end of life care mean to us?

> “Allowing people to die with comfort and dignity in a manner that aligns with their wishes” – Dr Chris Moy
> “Put’s the person at the centre” – Mary Dickson
> “Recognises the person as an individual with a life story” – Prof Jennifer Tieman
> “Is person centred care, coordinated, and delivered by trained and competent professionals in the setting of the person’s choice” – Kate Swetenham
> “Consumer centred and directed care that is dignified and respectful”  
  – Judy Smith AM
> “Acknowledges that dying is a social issue and belongs to us all”  
  – Margaret Brown
> “A precious time of life where care needs to be easily accessible, in a place of safety and comfort for the person and their loved ones” – Helen Walker
How do we intend to achieve the vision?

To achieve this vision we have identified a number of key goals. We will use these to guide us in the planning and implementation of the EoLC Strategy.

> Care is supported by increased community awareness that dying is part of life.
> Care is always guided by a person’s values and wishes, and involves them, or their Substitute Decision Maker, Persons Responsible or loved ones, as active participants in decisions about their care (person centred).
> People, and their family or carer(s), are well informed about care and treatment options, and can provide feedback, including complaints, about their experience of care.
> People, and their family and carer(s), can record their values and wishes for care at the end of life, and this information is readily available to health professionals across care settings to guide care.
> Health professionals have the skills and knowledge to recognise and sensitively communicate that a person is approaching the end of their life, assess their care needs and provide appropriate care.
> Health professionals understand their professional and legal responsibilities in providing care to people at the end of life.
> Service provision is interdisciplinary, coordinated and responsive, and supports high quality care over time (not episodic) and seamless transitions between care settings.
> People, and their family and carer(s), have access to services and a contact person for reassurance, advice and support, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.
> Decisions about the design of services and allocation of resources are informed by consumer, family and carer feedback, data and evaluation, and optimise equity of access.
> SA Health services and commissioned services have processes in place to monitor and improve the safety and quality of end of life care services.

While we recognise that SA Health has been progressive in many of these areas, we believe we should always strive to do better. This will require us to build strong partnerships with consumers, government and non-government services, health professionals and innovators, and weave together a range of existing and new activities.

Implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy will present challenges, but together we are committed to improving the quality of end of life care services for South Australians.