

What are Compassionate Communities?

Compassionate communities are communities where everyday people play a stronger role in the care and support of people in times of loss, ageing, dying and grief

These communities are all about improving the end-of-life experience for people by creating and mobilising local networks, groups and services to be more conscious, aware and equipped to offer support wherever and whenever it is needed. They comprise people of all ages and all walks of life.

A key aspect to introducing any compassionate community initiative is encouraging community members to increase their death and grief literacy. This means people can better understand and be comfortable talking about death, dying, grief and care and can adapt their behaviour to be active in supporting others at end of life.

This approach builds capacity within individual communities to support others – not only those who are at the end of life, but also those who are ageing, living with a disability, have a life-limiting condition, or who are grieving.

Compassionate Communities WA Network

Palliative Care WA is committed to encouraging and supporting current and emerging compassionate communities across WA. One of the ways we do that is by facilitating the Compassionate Communities WA Network. Hosted by Palliative Care WA, the network meets online via Zoom throughout the year to:

- share experiences and resources
- discuss ideas and innovations
- provide support to each other
- encourage new compassionate communities.

This is an open forum, and we encourage anyone with an interest in compassionate communities to join in. Whether you are still learning, have just started or have your compassionate community up and running, you are most welcome.

Contact us on info@palliativecarewa.asn.au to find out how to join the next meeting.



To find out more about compassionate communities in Western Australia and to access our resources page containing information and links to useful websites, visit [Compassionate Communities Australia](#) or www.palliativecarewa.asn.au