

Townsville University Hospital

Palliative Medicine - RMO Campaign 2022

Public / private	Public unit with right of private practice for consultants
Service name	Townsville Palliative Care Service, Townsville University Hospital
Service type	Inpatient, Community and Consultative Service
Patient referral groups	All ages including neonates
Annual no. of referrals	600 approximately
Inpatient bed numbers	20 beds of which 18 are currently funded – room for growth
Inpatient annual admissions	400 approximately
Staffing & Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clinical Director and Palliative Medicine Specialist – Two full-time Palliative Medicine Specialist – 1 part-time Palliative Medicine Specialist – SMO 16 hours per week to support palliative care in the community – Two registrar posts which can be either advanced trainee or Diploma – One Resident and one Intern intermittently
RACP accreditation – define category(ies)	Advanced training for both inpatient & consultation/liaison modules Accredited for Clinical Diploma in Palliative Medicine (provisional Cancer Care at present, but applying for community service accreditation this year)
Service Benefits (drawcard)	<p>New facility in the grounds of The Townsville Hospital that was purpose built and opened in 2009. Full range of facilities including 14 single rooms and 3 doubles for patients. There are also a variety of meeting rooms ranging from a 40-seat lecture theatre to small family rooms for 3 to 5 people, a children's play area, a community sitting room and dining room as well as a range of areas for staff. The building is set in well vegetated grounds and with a view of surrounding mountains and a stream that runs past one end of the building. Each of the patient rooms opens onto the veranda and the doors are wide enough for beds to be moved onto the veranda. All these features make our Palliative Care Centre probably the best-appointed facility in Australia.</p> <p>We have strong teaching and research links to the James Cook University School of Health Sciences.</p> <p>Clinical exposure to SPACE and SPARTA/CARS projects i.e. specialist Pall Care in Residential aged care facilities and Remote and Rural Services.</p>
Service Highlights / benefits	<p>The Palliative Care Service is closely integrated into the clinical life of the hospital with very strong links to all services and Oncology, medicine and ICU. The hospital is developing a very strong culture of end-of-life care that reflects growing awareness of the issues of patient participation in decision making about appropriate care. We also participate in the care of dying children and neonates and have a good working relationship with paediatrics and NICU.</p> <p>The community care service works closely with GPs across the region to maximise care at home by delivering nursing care and essential equipment to people at home.</p>

	A well-established education program is in place for junior doctors, medical students, allied health workers and more senior doctors in the community and the hospital at large
Hospital Web link	https://www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au/facilities/townsville/townsville-university-hospital/