

2. Why GPs improve their competence in Palliative Care delivery:

In the October 2006 RACGP Australian Family Physician, Dr Geoffrey Mitchell states that Palliative Care is one of the most important tasks a general practitioner can undertake. Most GPs will care for 5–7 deaths per annum, and many of these will take a palliative course. This number will rise as the population ages. Ninety percent of the care in the last year of life takes place at home.

General Practice Palliative Care is intensive, for a relatively short time, requiring advanced knowledge, skills and attitudes to deliver the most effective care to patients, their families and friends. Many GPs feel it is a great privilege to witness and assist in the birth of a child. To witness and render effective whole of person care to patients in their terminal months, weeks and days, is also for many a great privilege. While such care may result in some sadness there may well be professional and personal fulfillment at having helped at a most difficult time.

This GPTT Palliative Care module is aimed at assisting you to increase your effectiveness in delivering Palliative Care in any setting in Australia.