

Palliative Care in General Practice:

*A quality improvement activity in
general practice*

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Acknowledgement of Country



“I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Kaurna people, the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide Plains on which we meet today.

I also extend that respect to any First Nations people joining us today.”

“Sunrise to Sunset” artwork by Sarah Richards was created to reflect CHN’s cultural journey to date and their Cultural Competency Framework (CCF). See our [website](#) for more information.

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ACT

An Australian Government Initiative

**Capital
Health
Network**
Partnering for better health

Capital Health Network (CHN) is the ACT's Primary Health Network. Our role is to advance the way primary health care is delivered in Canberra. We address community needs by collaborating with consumers, GPs, clinicians and sector stakeholders to improve health outcomes. We are unique in our ability to support general practices and design services that fill gaps and deliver lasting improvements.



Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Program
Improve palliative care coordination in the ACT Funded by
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

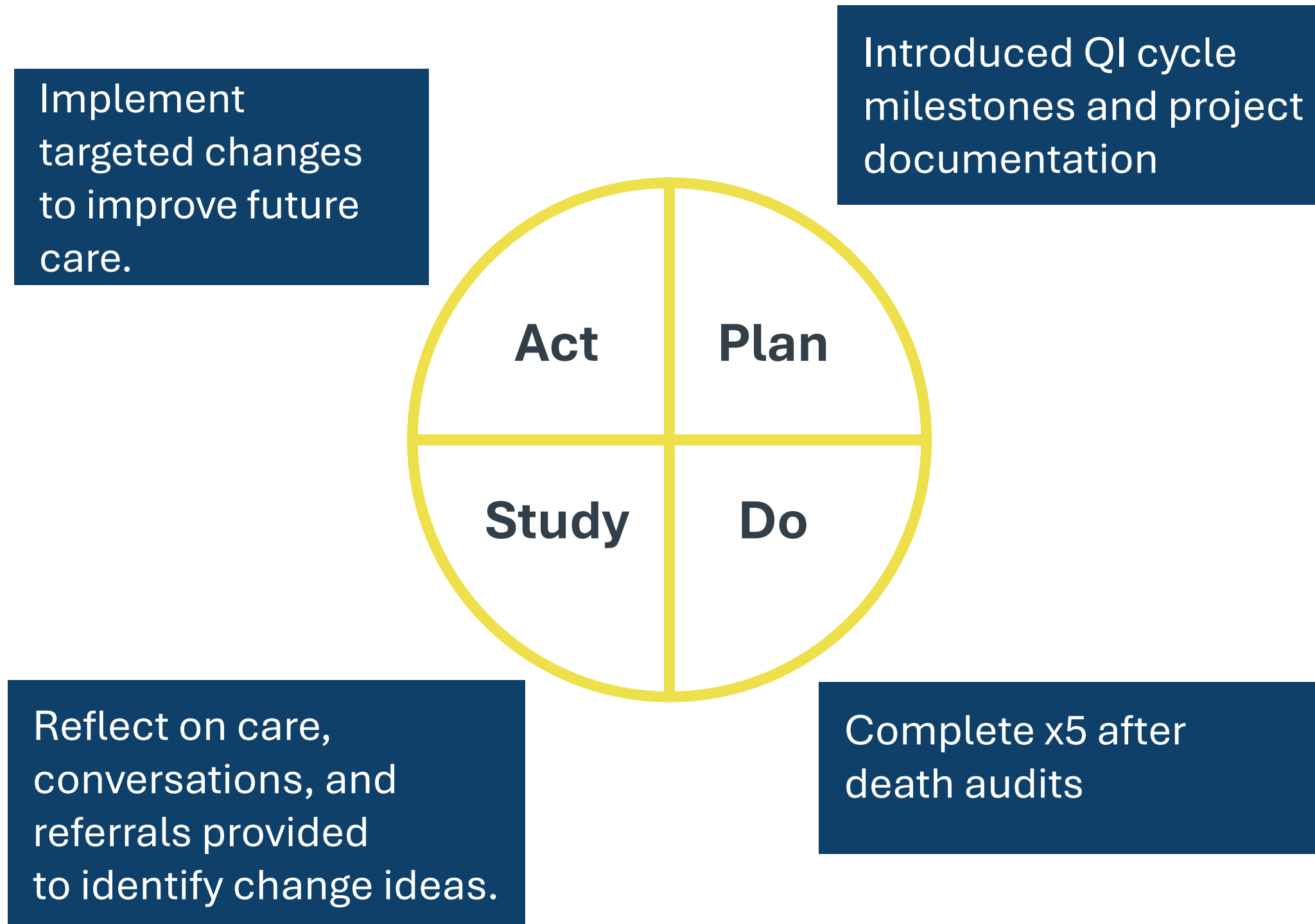


General Practice

- Most people in Australia are dying of chronic illness
- GPs care for chronic patients
- End-of-Life difficult to recognise in chronic illness
- Chronic illness underrepresented in Specialist Palliative Care
- GPs seeing more palliative care patients in their day-to-day practice than previously thought
- GPs engaging in tailored Continuous Quality Improvement activities



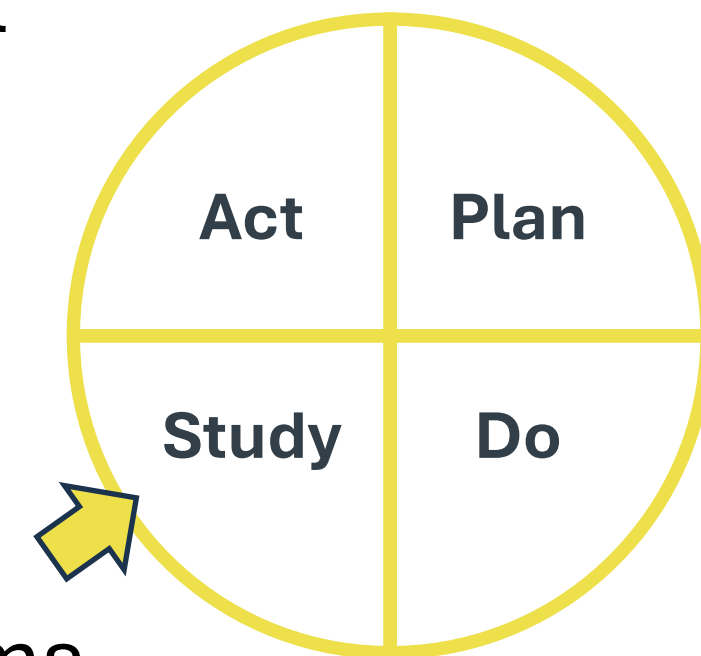
Palliative Care in General Practice Quality Improvement Activity



Study – Reflect and Generate Change Ideas



- Limited End-of-Life discussions and documentation
- Delayed or no recognition of palliative needs
- Fragmented care and unclear referral pathways
- Low use MBS items and Home Medicines Reviews
- Limited psychosocial and multidisciplinary support
- Suboptimal management of symptoms
- At risk patient population late presentation and complex needs



Act – Implement Change Ideas



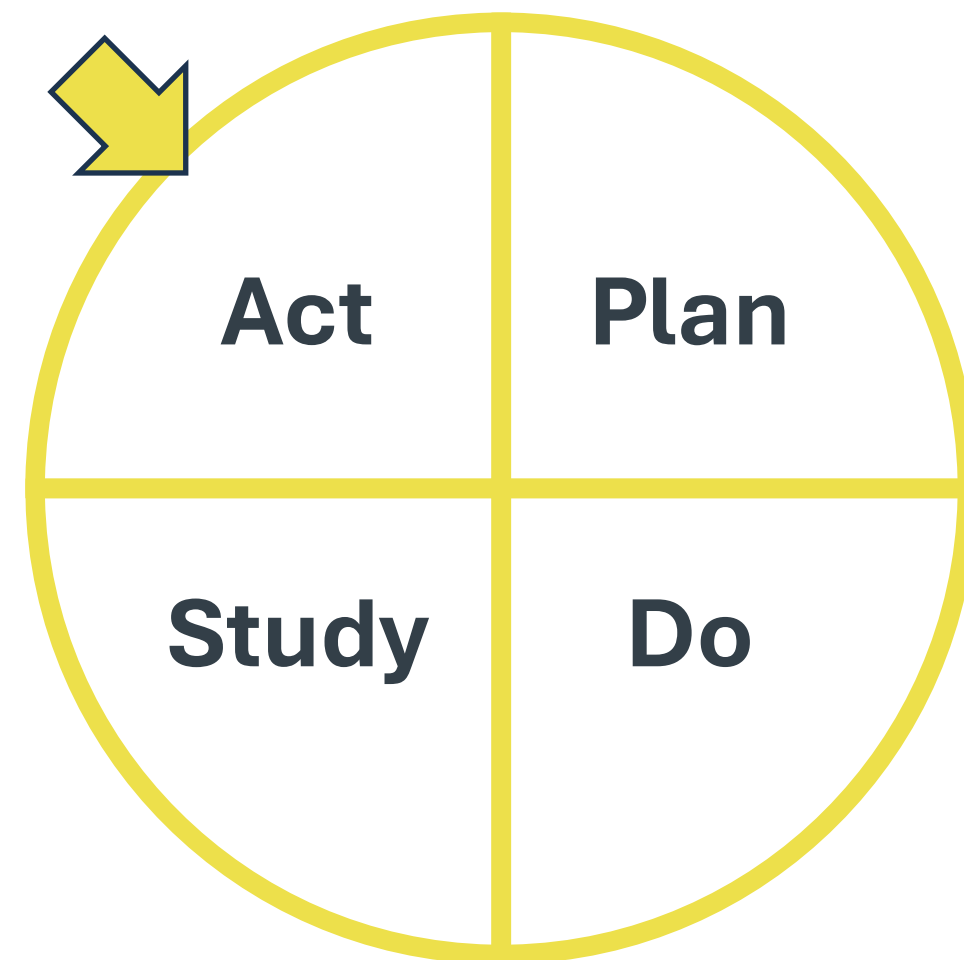
Normalise End-of-Life conversations



Routine screening

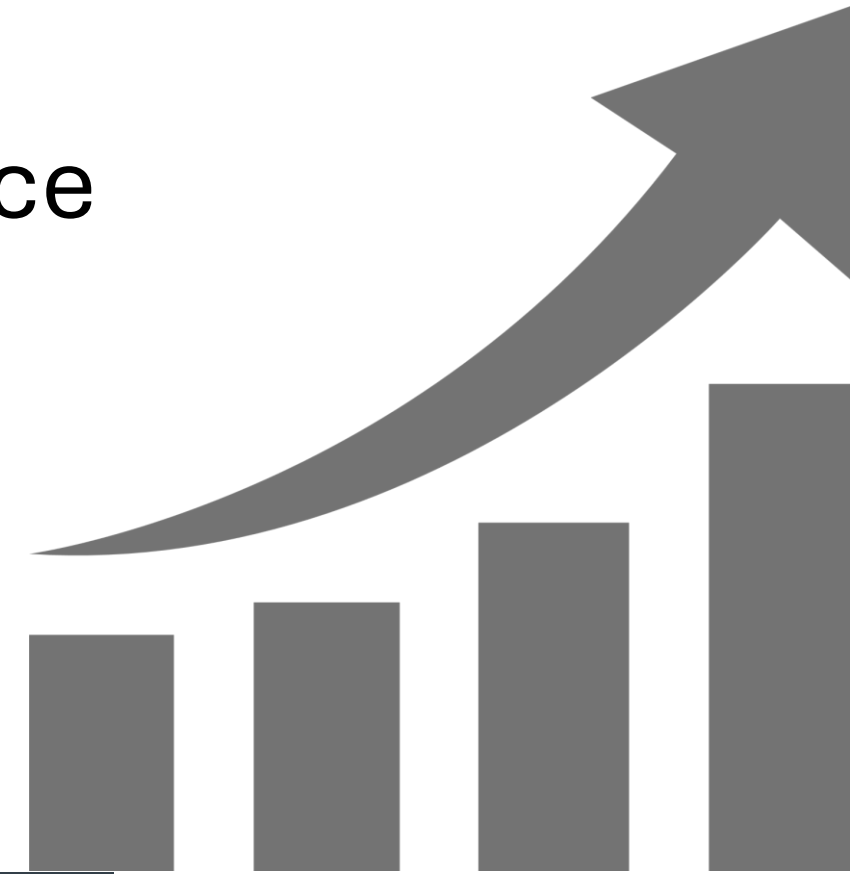


Intentional Management & System Changes



Project Outcome - Impact

- ↗ Improved quality and consistency of end-of-life planning
- ↗ Earlier identification of palliative patients
- ↗ More timely referrals to specialist services
- ↗ Better coordination and continuity of care
- ↗ Increased patient and family understanding and confidence
- ↗ Greater alignment of care with patient preferences

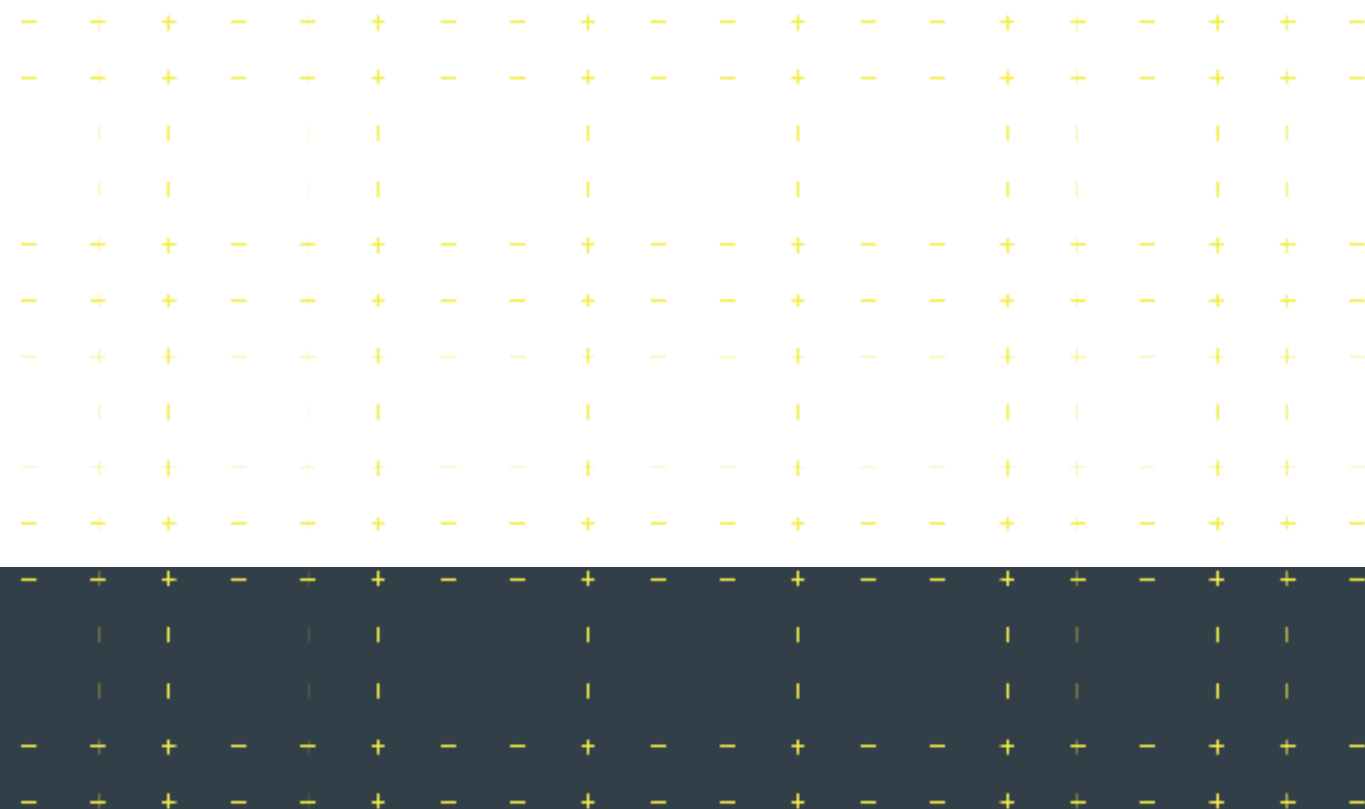


Good News Story



Thank you!

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