

Changing Public Understanding of Dying



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How did we stop recognising dying?

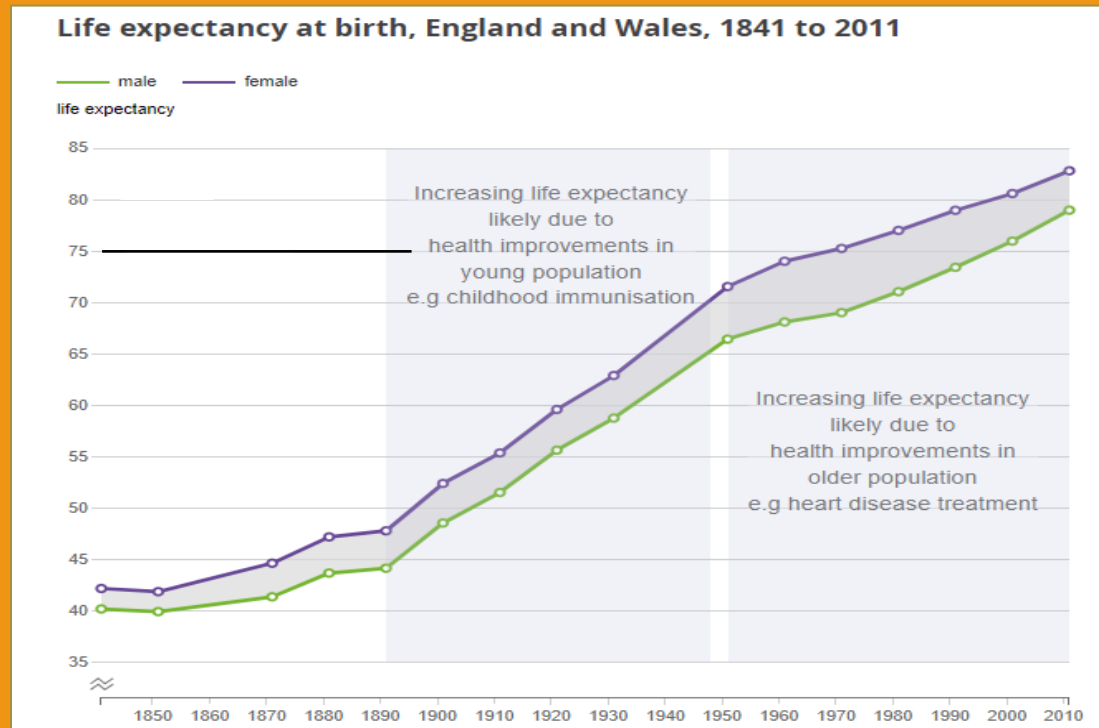
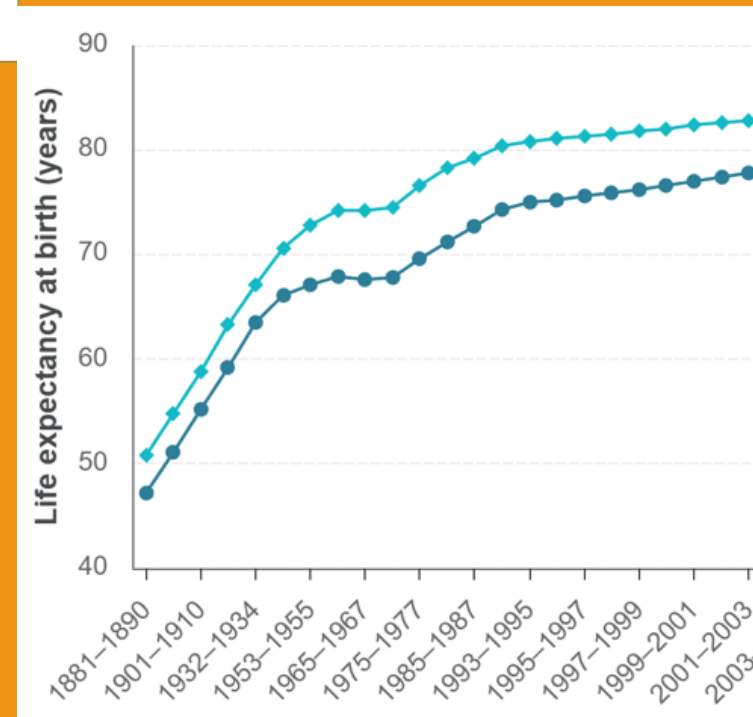
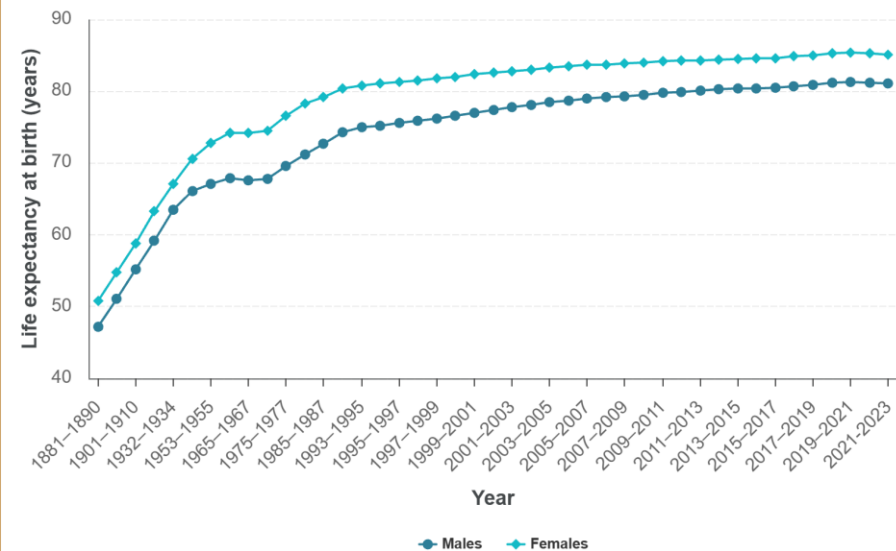


Figure 9.1: Life expectancy (years) at birth in Australia, by sex, 1891–1900 to 2021–2023



Modern Death Myths



**MY RIGHT TO
DIE IN DIGNITY**

mum denied
chance to say goodbye
'because doctors did
to keep her alive'

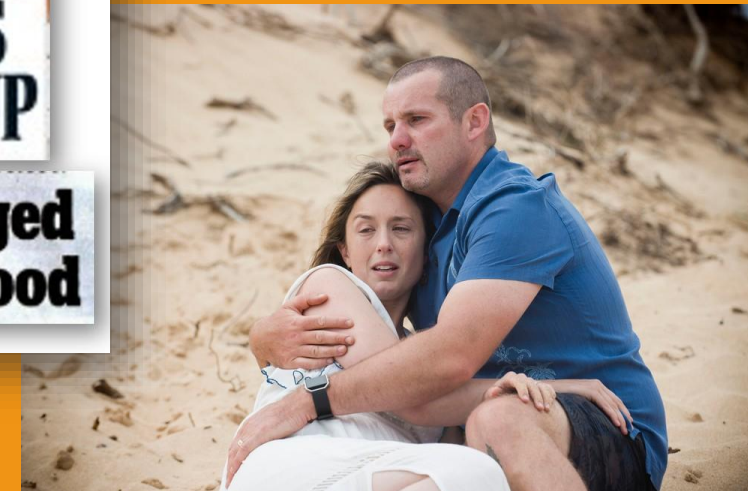
10,000 deaths: UK faces
'worst total in Europe'

**NHS HIT
BY NEW
HOSPITAL
COVER-UP**

**LEFT TO DIE
BY CALLOUS
PARAMEDIC**

Virus patients more likely to die
may have ventilators taken away

**mum was drugged
up and denied any food**







Sabine: Reclaiming the lost wisdom



What matters most to us?

Changing our understanding...







With thanks and appreciation to:

- Hammond Care for support with my travel to Australia
- PCNA for inviting me to speak here this week.
- Allyra Hulme and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Palliative Care Association NATSIPCA
- The patients and families who allowed me to care for them
- William Collins Publishers for the courage to publish a book of stories about dying, and the many readers who have entrusted their stories to me since then
- My family, and our chickens



Changing the Public Understanding of Dying

- Every patient offers us a new opportunity to change understanding of a whole 'Village.'
- Every death is individual, yet the patterns are familiar.
- It's time to re-claim the language.
- It's time to talk about dying.
- It's time to narrate every death-bed.
- It's time to change the public understanding of dying.
- No-one else will do this for us.

It's time.

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