

# Townsville University Hospital

## Palliative Medicine - RMO and Registrar Campaign 2026

<b>Public / private</b>	Public unit with right of private practice for consultants
<b>Service name</b>	Townsville Palliative Care Service, Townsville University Hospital
<b>Service type</b>	Inpatient, Community and Consultative Service
<b>Patient referral groups</b>	All ages including neonates
<b>Annual no. of referrals</b>	800 approximately (including to Specialist Palliative Rural Telehealth (SPARTA) service, and Specialist Palliative Care in Aged Care (SPACE) project).
<b>Inpatient bed numbers</b>	20 beds
<b>Inpatient annual admissions</b>	400 approximately
<b>Staffing &amp; Supervision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clinical Director and Palliative Medicine Specialists</li> <li>– 3 full-time Palliative Medicine Specialist</li> <li>– 3 part-time Palliative Medicine Specialist</li> <li>– 3.5 registrar posts are available, either as an Advanced Trainee, Advanced Specialised Skill (AST) or Clinical Foundation in palliative medicine. Accreditation for Inpatient, Consult Liaison, and Community</li> <li>– One BPT, one Resident and one Intern</li> </ul>
<b>RACP accreditation – define categories</b>	<p>Accredited for Inpatient, consultation/liaison, cancer care and community (SPARTA and SPACE).</p> <p>Accredited for Clinical Diploma in Palliative Medicine, Extended Skill and Advanced Specialised Skill (AST)</p>
<b>Service Benefits (drawcard)</b>	<p>New facility on 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 a range of areas for staff. The building is set on well-vegetated grounds 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 SPARTA projects (Remote and Rural Services)</p>
<b>Service Highlights / benefits</b>	The Palliative Care Service is closely integrated into the clinical life of the hospital, with very strong links to most services, especially Oncology, internal medicine and

	<p>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> <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.</p>
<b>Hospital Web link</b>	<a href="https://www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au/facilities/townsville/townsville-university-hospital/">https://www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au/facilities/townsville/townsville-university-hospital/</a>