

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service

Palliative Medicine - RMO and Registrar Campaign 2026

Public / private	Public										
Service name	Specialist Palliative Care Service, Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service										
Service type	Inpatient, Community and Consult Liaison Service Radiation Oncology as a planned 6-month term										
Patient referral groups	<p>Adults within GCHSS catchment, including in RACFs and Rural and Remote (SPARTA) for Darling Downs and South-West Queensland HHS.</p> <p>Kidney Supportive Care (KSC) is based out of the renal department.</p> <p>Pediatrics have a separate service through GCUH and the Children's Hospital, with some supplementary pop-up model in from the community</p> <p>Persis</p> <p><u>Casemix:</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>PCU</td><td>cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Consults</td><td>cancer 70%, non-cancer 30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Community + RACF</td><td>cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>SPARTA (Rural)</td><td>cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hospice</td><td>Cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%</td></tr> </table>	PCU	cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%	Consults	cancer 70%, non-cancer 30%	Community + RACF	cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%	SPARTA (Rural)	cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%	Hospice	Cancer 80%, non-cancer 20%
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Annual no. of referrals	More than 1250 for community More than 1200 for consult liaison										
Inpatient bed numbers	20 beds at Robina Hospital (RH) PCU, 8 beds at Hopewell Hospice, 12 beds at Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH)										
Inpatient annual admissions	More than 400 for inpatient unit										
Staffing & Supervision	<p>7.0 FTE consultants including Medical Clinical Director, plus more than 2.0 FTEs in KSC/SPARTA positions. Further FTE listed below:</p> <p>All have FRACP/FRACGP + FACHPM.</p> <p>Up to 7 registrar posts which will be shared between advanced trainees (ATs) in Palliative Medicine, ATs of other training programs or candidates of the Clinical Foundation of Palliative Medicine. Term availability will vary from year to year. Options for terms in ICON radiation oncology (when available)</p> <p>2 interns at Robina PCU.</p> <p>1.5 residents at GCUH.</p>										

	<p>1 BPT shared between GCUH and RH</p> <p>There will be additional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exposure to KSC service (based out of renal) with 0.5 FTE Palliative Medicine staff specialist 2) Exposure to the statewide telehealth program (SPARTA) - our focus being provision of services west of Toowoomba. 3) Exposure to Persistent Pain clinics 4) Exposure to interventional radiology procedures
RACP accreditation –define category(ies)	<p>RACP accredited for advanced training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH and GCUH Inpatients • Community (local, rural and RACFs) • RH and GCUH Consult Liaison <p>Accredited for Clinical Foundation in Palliative Medicine.</p>
Service Benefits (drawcard)	<p>Our service won Queensland Palliative Care Service of the Year award in 2019.</p> <p>The consultants all have special interests in teaching including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A/Prof Andrew Broadbent in consultant management issues and models of care. He is one of the co-chairs of the Queensland Palliative Care Network. ○ A/Prof Jo Doran in communication, compassion and holistic care ○ A/Prof Nicola Morgan in the GP interface and RACFs. ○ A/Prof Graham Grove in bedside ultrasound and radiology in palliative medicine. He is the Queensland Medical Director of SPARTA ○ Dr Joanne Cerni in Kidney Supportive Care +/- non-malignant palliative care + education (medical students) ○ Dr Shantona Bag in education (registrars/ATs) and audits ○ Dr Elise Maehler in education (medical students) and ethics ○ Dr. Mario Mateus in education (registrars/ATs) ○ Dr Alex Soobratty in education (JMO) ○ Dr Timothy Roberts in education (across all streams) <p>Telehealth consultations via multiple platforms as part of normal practice (telehealth portal, teams and Facetime).</p> <p>Routine utilisation and teaching in point of care ultrasound on the wards – our service one of a few units in the world to do this.</p> <p>Weekly radiology-based Complex Pain MDT involving Palliative Medicine, Interventional Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Persistent Pain.</p> <p>The development of a research arm providing support will to registrars wanting to commence a local research project.</p> <p>Yearly Gold Coast palliative care conference (alternating between medical and allied health themes)</p>

	<p>The service is fully PCOC integrated across PCU, community and consults, and is one of the few national services to have all 3 arms integrated into the national benchmarking system</p> <p>The service runs a needs-based specialist model of care service, consistent with national best practice guidelines that is holistic, multidisciplinary and integrated across the consult, community and PCU.</p> <p>The specialist community service works closely with generalist palliative care providers such as GPs and NGO nursing services across the region to maximise care at home.</p> <p>We have strong medical teaching links to both Griffith and Bond Universities with integration into the last two years of both courses. Medical students are rostered routinely during the year.</p> <p>The PEPA program has become a focus of our teaching for generalist providers with week-long attachments occurring for local GPs, RNS or allied health clinicians, as well as to staff of the local ambulance service.</p> <p>The service has a community team based at Robina Hospital, with consult teams at GCUH and Robina. There are 12 beds at GCUH and 20 single rooms at Robina in a purpose-built inpatient facility. We also medically supervise the 8 beds at Hopewell Hospice.</p>
Service Highlights / benefits	<p>The Palliative Care Service is closely integrated into the clinical life of the hospital and community with links to all services particularly Oncology (Medical and Radiation Oncology), Persistent Pain, Interventional Radiology and General Medicine. The hospitals are developing a strong culture of end-of-life care that reflects the growing awareness and need for shared-decision making on appropriate individualised palliative care provision. We also participate in the community care of dying children, directed closely by the Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane. The community service works closely with GPs and NGO nursing services across the region to maximise care at home by delivering nursing care and essential equipment. This enables patients to stay at home for end-of-life care, or as long as is feasible for the patient and their families. Specialist Palliative Medicine consultant/registrar visits are also readily available when required.</p> <p>An accredited Radiation Oncology is offered as a planned option for those registrars staying 12 months or more.</p> <p>Access to some Persistent Pain clinics is also an option available.</p>

	<p>There is a culture of education within the service, along with an established education program for junior doctors, medical students, allied health workers and more senior doctors in the community and the hospital; this includes weekly registrar tutorials and weekly 'whole of service education'.</p> <p>The service emphasizes staff/patient/family wellbeing. This is facilitated through a recreational officer who organizes events such as "scone therapy." In addition, there are also weekly Zumba sessions as well as a quarterly bake off, among other events throughout the year.</p>
Hospital Web link	https://www.goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au/our-services/palliative-care