

International Panel Statement:

Working Together for Better Palliative Care

21OPCC's Plenary International Panel Members (Rachel Coghlan, Christian Ntizimira, Dr Katherine Pettus, Dr Malama Tafuna'l, Associate Professor Ghauri Aggarwal, and Odette Spruijt) have also presented a statement of key recommendations to drive international collaboration with impact and achieve better palliative care for all globally. The Oceanic region is part of a broader global movement, and the statement below reflects the outcomes from the conference.

The Oceanic Palliative Care Conference provides a space for participants from countries of all income levels to learn and to share their experiences and realities, and is a platform for building sustained relationships and collaborations. It is important to us that with each biannual conference, this space remains not only open, but continues to grow.

By fostering these lasting relationships, our panel members want to see the development of palliative care teaching programmes and curricula designed and taught in partnership between established palliative care institutions and health systems where palliative care is emerging. It is important to us that palliative care instruction is shared, as much as possible, within contexts where it is needed, to reduce the negative impacts of local brain drain of health professionals. Curricula should also support advocacy for the development and budgeting of local services, and ensure appropriate credentialing for professional qualifications. Affordable opportunities for generalist and specialist palliative care certification should be available in contexts where palliative care is nascent.

We believe that top-down teaching programmes are inappropriate and ineffective in all contexts, and that mentoring and exchange of ideas between health workers from established palliative care institutions, and those operating in contexts where palliative care is immature, is essential for ongoing mutual learning and understanding, and for the growth and sustainability of services. Curricula should be developed in partnership with local communities to ensure uptake, based on relevance and respect for all cultures and beliefs concerning illness and the roles of families and communities.

We see a world in which national governments understand, accept, and take responsibility for supporting and funding palliative care programmes in their own countries. We call on the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference organisers to continue to provide this space so that we can together advocate to national governments for better palliative care for all.