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Aboriginal palliative care and mainstream services

Equally, the design of the palliative care ward, which limits access and visual connection to the outside, also contributes to reduced length of stay of Aboriginal Australians (McGrath and Patton 2007).

As the Australian population ages and lifespan inequities continue, demand on palliative care services will grow. Further research is needed to look at ways of meeting specific cultural, spiritual and community needs for Aboriginal people at the EOL. There is a compelling need to build the Aboriginal community capacity to train and sustain Aboriginal palliative care Indigenous clinicians, to ensure palliative care processes are provided the opportunity to develop culturally and grow.

Acknowledgements are extended to elders past and present.

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