

## What are Compassionate Communities?

*“A city is not merely a place to work and access services but equally a place to enjoy support in the safety and protection of each other’s company, in schools, workplaces, places of worship and recreation, in cultural forums and social networks anywhere within the city’s influence, even to the end of our days”.* Compassionate city charter, A Kellehear.<sup>1</sup>

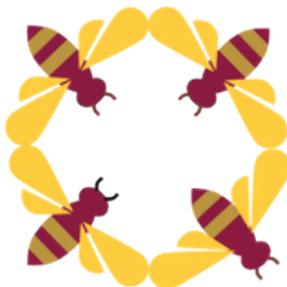
Compassionate Communities are communities where everybody recognises that we all have a role to play in supporting each other in times of loss, ageing, dying and grief. Everyone is ready, willing and confident to have respectful discussions to support each other in emotional and practical ways.

Compassionate Communities are a core part of public health approaches to palliative care, end of life care and bereavement. Compassionate Communities are derived from the World Health Organisation concept of ‘Healthy Cities’ or ‘Healthy Communities’ and is based on the ‘New’ public health idea that health is more than mere absence of illness and that it is everyone’s responsibility—not just their doctors and their health services.<sup>2</sup>

Compassionate Communities “publicly encourage, facilitate, support and celebrate care for one another during life’s most testing moments and experiences, especially those pertaining to life-threatening and life-limiting illness, chronic disability, frail ageing and dementia, grief and bereavement, and the trials and burdens of long term care.”<sup>3</sup>

## Be a part of a compassionate community

BE CONNECTED      BE COMPASSIONATE



BE ACCEPTING      BE NEIGHBOURLY

[palliativecareqld.org.au/qcc](http://palliativecareqld.org.au/qcc)

For more information about the Queensland Compassionate Communities program

visit: [palliativecareqld.org.au/qcc](http://palliativecareqld.org.au/qcc) or call 07 3842 3242

1 Abel, J, Kellehear, A and Karapliagou, A, ‘Palliative care – the new essentials’, Annals of Palliative Medicine 7(Suppl 2) (2018).

2 QJM: An International Journal of Medicine, Volume 106, Issue 12, December 2013, Pages 1071–1075, Published: 18 October 2013 Available at <https://academic.oup.com/qjmed/article/106/12/1071/1633982>

3 Kellehear A, “The Compassionate City Charter: inviting the cultural and social sectors into end of life care”, in Wegleitner K, Heimerl K and Kellehear A eds. Compassionate Communities: case studies from Britain and Europe. Routledge (2015): 76-87. Available at [http://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2018/09/An-implementation-guide-for-community.pdf](http://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2018/09/An-implementation-guide-for-community.pdf)