



Trainee & Program Details

Training Program

Basic Training AU (Paediatrics) 2025

Training Program Phase *

Consolidation

Date of Observation *

21/06/25

Learning Capture Details

Type of Learning *

Other learning experiences

Please specify other learning experiences *

Meeting

Title*

Palliative care in advanced heart failure

Select the primary learning goal *

10. Knowledge

Learning Capture Details

Description of Activity *

I attended a multidisciplinary team meeting that focused on the care of a young patient with complex congenital heart disease approaching end-stage heart failure. The discussion included the patient's clinical trajectory, options for advanced therapies and the family's psychosocial needs. Specialists from cardiology, palliative care, social work and psychology contributed to the conversation. The team explored how to balance life-prolonging treatment with comfort-focused care and how to support the patient's parents through difficult decisions. This setting gave me insight into the depth of planning required to deliver holistic, family-centred care in paediatrics.

What did you learn? *

I gained a deeper understanding of how palliative care can be integrated early alongside curative treatment in children with chronic, life-limiting conditions. I learned how to approach conversations about prognosis and treatment goals with sensitivity, especially when parents may feel overwhelmed or hopeful for unlikely outcomes. The meeting highlighted the importance of shared decision-making and tailoring care to the child's and family's values and needs.

How will you apply this learning in the future? *

I will proactively consider when palliative care input may be appropriate for patients with complex needs, even outside of end-of-life scenarios. In future discussions with families, I will aim to communicate clearly, offer space for questions and ensure that the child's comfort and quality of life are part of the decision-making process. I'll also seek input from allied health professionals and palliative care colleagues early to build a collaborative, family-centred plan.

Assessor Feedback (optional)

Feedback From *

Dr Matthew Zolb

Assessor Role *

Education Supervisor

Personal Message

Dear Dr Zolb, I'd appreciate your feedback on my reflection about paediatric palliative care involvement.

Feedback Requested Date

28/06/25

Feedback *

You've shown a really solid understanding of how and when to involve palliative care, and your empathy really comes through in the way you described the case. I think this is a great example of thoughtful, compassionate practice. If you wanted to strengthen it even further, you could add a few more details about your interactions with the patient and family - what you said, how they responded, or how it shaped your thinking. Overall, this is a mature and sensitive reflection, very appropriate for someone at your stage of training.