



Kate Swetenham is the Service Director of Southern Adelaide Palliative Services (SAPS) and the Chair of the Palliative Care Clinical Network for South Australia. Kate is a nurse who holds a Graduate Diploma in Psycho-Oncology and a Master of Palliative Care. She is currently doing a Master of Science to explore patient, family caregiver and health provider communication dynamics within a clinic setting.

In her role as Network Chair Kate is responsible for guiding palliative care reform to ensure the strategies of the Statewide Services Plan 2009-2016 are implemented across South Australia.

This has included

- Utilising the Extended Care Paramedic from SA Ambulance to provide a rapid response service to community based palliative care patients.
- Establishing the role of the Advanced Practice Pharmacist into specialist palliative care services, which has resulted in the development of a community pharmacy network.
- Securing funding from SA Health to establish a GP shared care program in palliative care

Personally Kate is particularly passionate about the psychosocial aspects of illness and suffering and this has been the basis for earlier research work on refractory suffering and the experience of the patient facing an end of life illness. More recently this passion has resulted in the establishment of an early introductory psychosocial clinic conducted from a community health setting

Kate was a chief investigator on the 'Telehealth in the Home' commonwealth funded project. This project explored using an iPad with video conferencing and self-monitoring functions to support people at home to enhance the home visiting component of the program.

Kate holds academic status with Flinders University and contributes to teaching the communication skills component of the Post Graduate Palliative Care Program. In 2012 Kate was part of the teaching team that was recognised by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council for Academic Excellence in delivering the off shore palliative care program to health care professionals in Singapore between 2008-2012.