

<b>Title</b>	<b>Demographic Differences in Community Attitudes towards Palliative Care</b>
<b>Number</b>	6
<b>Authors</b>	Lauren Breen, Curtin University Moira O'Connor, Curtin University
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Determining community attitudes to palliative care is important in understanding why people do or do not use palliative care. Although there is little research on community attitudes to palliative care overall, there is some research showing that that attitudes towards palliative care are affected by demographic factors such as age, sex, and ethnicity. The aim of the current study was to ascertain the differences in attitudes towards palliative care between demographic groups. A convenience sample of Australian adults completed an online questionnaire with a measure of attitude towards palliative care, as well as a set of demographic questions regarding age, gender, and minority status. Generalised Linear Mixed Modelling (GLMM) revealed that those who were older rather than younger and those who belonged to minority groups rather than non-minority groups, have more a positive attitude towards palliative care. GLMM failed to find a significant difference in attitude towards palliative care across gender or any significant interactions between demographic variables. These findings indicate that young people and non-minorities may be at risk of poor use of palliative care services and poorer uptake of end-of-life planning. There is a need to focus our efforts on community education targeting these groups.</p>