

We can die better Australia!

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the land we work and live on. We pay our respect to Elders of the past and present. We are committed to creating a better future for all.



An action guide by the

**Good Death
Impact Network**

What if all Australians could live well until they die and experience the support they want in times of bereavement? What if a movement of small independent shifts could make that a shared reality for all?
You make both possible.

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For four years the *Good Death Impact Network* have been building relationships nationally between people doing things differently in the End of Life sector. During this time diverse members have spent considerable time ‘seeing the system’ from their many diverse perspectives. When those perspectives were woven together some common patterns — challenges — could be seen. Together the network discussed each pattern, its meaning, how it came to be and what could activate change.

This playbook is a highly concentrated summary of their work. It is intended to do three things: **1)** spark conversations; **2)** inspire your ideas; and, **3)** catalyse a movement for change!

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What to do with this booklet ...

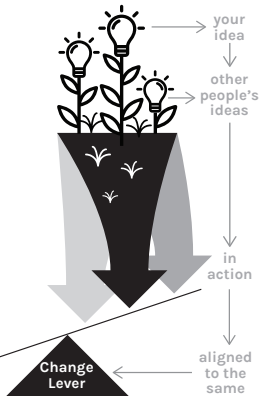
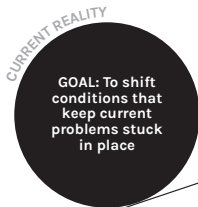
See where and how your work would benefit from acting on the Change Levers

Use the levers to spark conversations & ideas in your networks

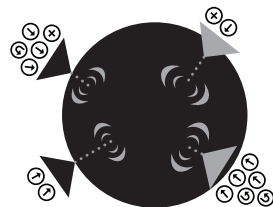


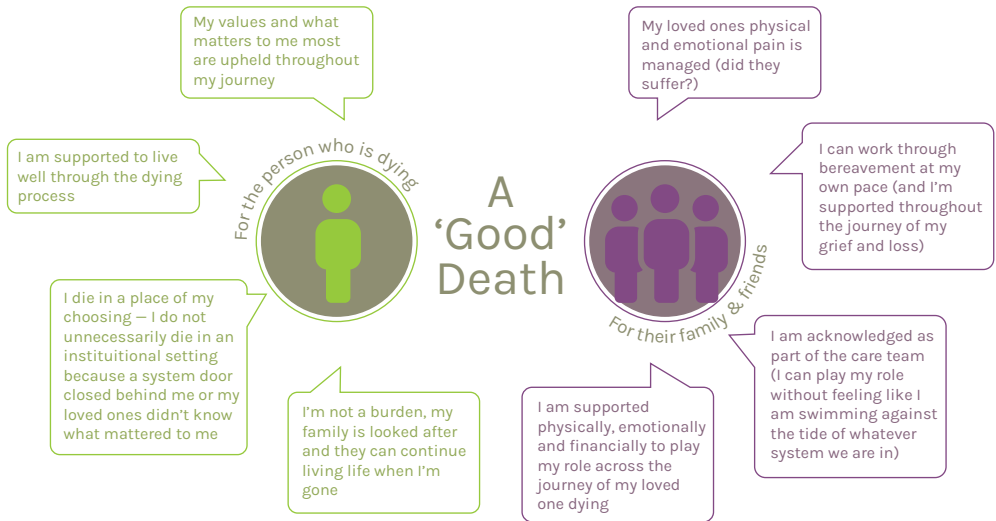
What's the ambition?

It's our intention to nurture a field of aligned actions



So that many diverse actions are applied to focused Change Levers

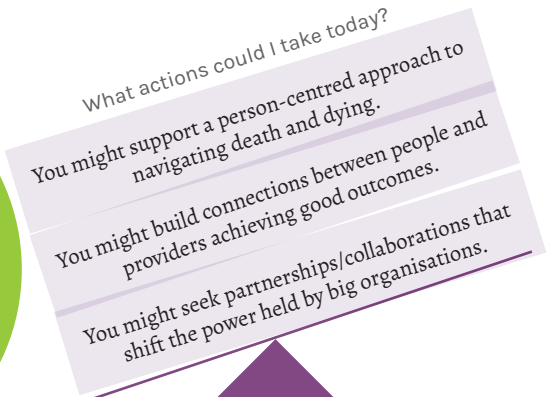




Co-defined by dying Australians, their carers, loved ones, and professionals through work conducted by The Australian Centre for Social Innovation and the Good Death Impact Network.



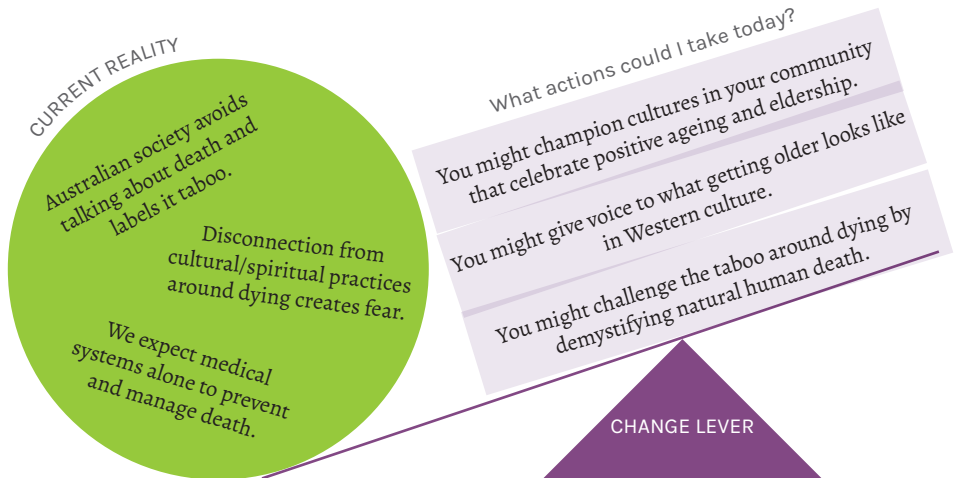
**Good Death
Impact Network**



1. Fund Outcomes

What can I support for the future?

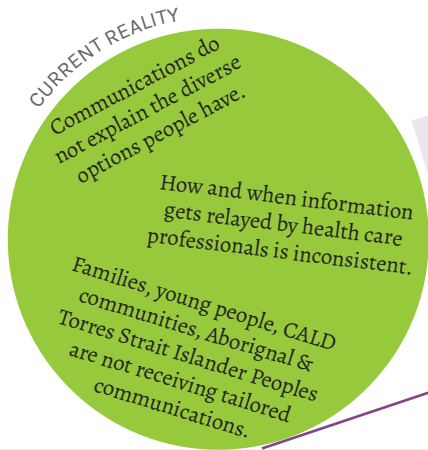
1. Push for commissioning that rewards collaboration and human outcomes instead of short-term business outputs.
2. Advocate for longer-term funding arrangements that give providers room to implement, evaluate and develop their services to higher standards.
3. Build relationships and trust within your sector by sharing what works and what doesn't.



2. Shift Death Denial

What can I support for the future?

1. Advocate for death to happen in community settings rather than clinical institutions where possible.
2. Reframe Advanced Care Directives/Plans around wellbeing and quality of life.
3. Call for policy change that allows people to navigate beyond the medical intervention system into exploring social and spiritual supports.



- What actions could I take today?
- You might inform people about their options beyond your own service/specialism.
- You might ensure all options supporting good death are represented in local directories. Or start one!
- You might amplify conversations about dying and the variety of options available.

3. Information & Communication

What can I support for the future?

1. Lobby for questions about death and dying to be included in the Census.
2. Encourage the capture of Advanced Care Directives by means other than writing *e.g. video, audio, etc.*

CURRENT REALITY

Evaluation often focuses on short-term business performance over human outcomes.

Competition for funds disincentivises sharing knowledge and data.

Progressive practices can lack the resources to build an evidence-base strong enough to impact policy.

What actions could I take today?

You might amplify good evaluation by sharing evidence from people/providers doing it well.

You might establish evaluation practices in your area that support cross-sector accountability.

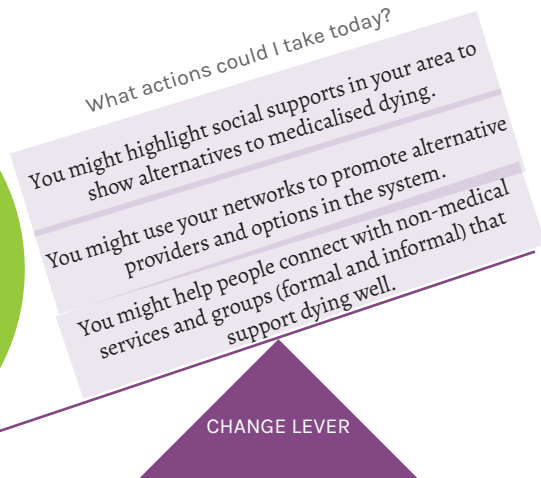
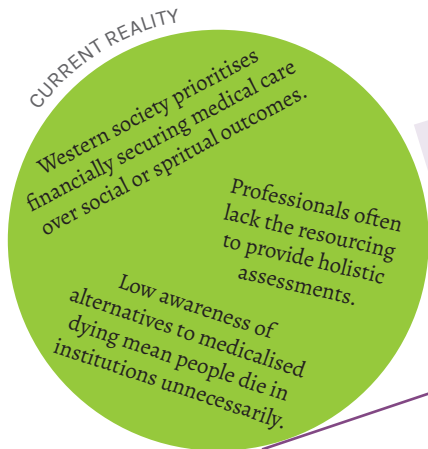
You might consider your own openness to transparency, sharing and learning with others in the sector. Where can you invite cooperation?

CHANGE LEVER

4. Quality Evaluation

What can I support for the future?

1. Build relationships with other providers in your sector to enable collaboration in goal setting and sharing data/evidence.
2. Use evaluation approaches that embed peer and frontline workers in data collection.
3. Measure outcomes against community definitions of "A Good Death" as per Page 3.



5. Death Outside Institutions

What can I support for the future?

1. Advocate for staff training in death literacy, using technology like virtual reality and programs that show how the joy of life can shape decision-making about death.
2. Back the credibility of community roles that holistically assess end-of-life preferences where health care professionals lack the resources to provide time and specialist knowledge.

CURRENT REALITY

Western society has an obsession with youth that fears ageing and death.

The aged care system commodifies older people which leads to dehumanising care.

Older people are not represented as diverse, engaged, dynamic or valuable.

What actions could I take today?

You might use imagery that depicts diverse experiences of ageing and eldership.

You might think about how you'll contribute value across divides in your community as you age.

You might counter ageist mindsets and language by sharing real stories about older Australians.

CHANGE LEVER

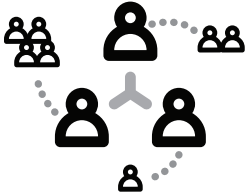
6. Address Ageism

What can I support for the future?

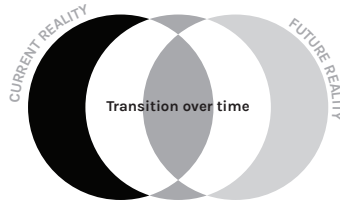
1. Support your networks to explore the connection between ageism and perceptions of 'usefulness' surrounding older people in Western industrialised nations.
2. Champion pathways that build respect for, connection to, and agency with older people.

How your actions support big picture change...

Share what works & what doesn't alongside a network of supportive peers



Ideas that work are adapted, adopted & cascade across our networks shifting conditions in the system



Join the movement!

For more information contact:
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About the Good Death Impact Network

In 2017, the JO & JR Wicking Trust asked The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) to scope where the Trust could most effectively invest to support innovative responses in the end of life system and maximise the potential for impact.

TACSI's recommendation was to attempt joining up existing approaches and people working for change in the system through the creation of the Good Death Impact Network. The concept at the heart of the Network remains to connect people and support them to create change in new and different ways.

Practically speaking, this looks like:

- Strengthening interconnectedness and alignment
- Seeing and acting with the wisdom of many perspectives
- Organising in ways that don't reinforce business-as-usual
- Working with conflicting views in generative ways

These network activities create trusting relationships, fertile soil for new ideas, opportunities for independent and collaborative action and a legitimate platform to influence broader change.

