

Calls to action statement: The future of advance care planning

The 9th International Advance Care Planning Conference (ACP-i 2025), a major collaboration between the Advance Care Planning International Society and Advance Care Planning Australia, convened in September 2025 on Yugambah Country/Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Over two and a half days, the conference united delegates from four continents, approximately 20% international and 80% Australian, to progress global discussion, understanding, and collaboration in advance care planning (ACP). Almost 100 delegates participated in the 'Calls to Action' for the future of ACP.

The Mandate

A central feature of the conference was the invitation for all delegates to submit their 'Calls to Action' for the future of ACP. These submissions were synthesised into a series of statements and presented during the closing session for endorsement. The following statements, having achieved a high consensus of over 95% endorsement, represent the collective will of the assembly.

Calls to Action from the 9th International Advance Care Planning Conference

We, the assembled delegates from the 9th International Advance Care Planning Conference, make the following urgent calls to action:

1. Global Standardisation and Practice

- Establish consistent global terminology: We call for an internationally consistent set of definitions and terminology for advance care planning. This framework must enable flexible, culturally responsive practice while remaining broadly agreed upon and functional globally. **(99% endorsed)**
- Commit to critical reflection: We call for continued critical reflection and globally situated, inter-professional, and community-responsive discussion about the core definitions, desirable outcomes, and implementation strategies for promoting optimal ACP. **(100% endorsed)**

2. Universal Access and Availability

- Ensure universal education and access: We call for universal access to education and accessible information about advance care planning, delivered in diverse, appropriate formats, and in every language. **(96% endorsed)**
- Mandate universal availability: We call for advance care planning to be made universally available, while simultaneously taking steps to enable the delivery of integrated palliative care and comfort care in all settings. **(99% endorsed)**

3. Implementation and System Change

- Apply implementation science: We call for a better understanding of how systems thinking and implementation science can enable ACP conversations to be effectively documented, shared, accessed, and used to inform care and treatment decision-making. **(100% endorsed)**

- Require interoperable medical records: We call for the implementation of medical records systems that ensure ACP documents are readily accessible across all settings, sectors, and jurisdictions to clinicians providing care. **(100% endorsed)**

4. Quality Measurement and Patient Voice

- Develop comprehensive metrics: We call for continued work to develop a diverse set of measures and metrics for high-quality and impactful advance care planning. These measures must be relevant at different stages of a person's health trajectory and measurable at the individual, community, service, and system levels. **(100% endorsed)**
- Prioritise the patient experience: We call for the contemporaneous measurement of patients 'feeling heard and understood' as a core measure of successful advance care planning, alongside existing metrics such as documentation prevalence, quality, and accessibility. **(99% endorsed)**

Australia-Specific Priority

The following additional statement achieved high consensus among Australian delegates:

- National consistency in Australia: Within Australia, we call for a nationally agreed set of definitions and terminology for advance care planning, which enables flexible and culturally responsive practice within a policy and practice framework that is relevant across all jurisdictions. **(99% endorsed)**

Next steps

This Call to Action will be actively shared by Advance Care Planning Australia and the Advance Care Planning International Society. It is envisioned that this statement will serve as a foundational roadmap, revisited in the future including ACP-i Conferences to reflect on and measure progress towards achieving these critical, globally agreed-upon goals.