



EARLI Project Update

No. 2: March 2023

The EARLI
Project

Welcome to the March edition of the EARLI project newsletter! I'm happy to let you know that we are now making steady progress with recruiting clients to the project. Our team are also working to support staff in participating aged care provider organisations, in their roles. If you have any queries, feel free to contact me on c.sinclair@unsw.edu.au.



All the best,

The EARLI Project

- Funded by the National Health & Medical Research Council 2022-2026.
- Testing whether **life story work** and **advance care planning** can help older adults in home care settings:
 - Feel better
 - Improve confidence in decision-making and care-planning
- Recruiting clients across up to 12 study sites in Perth and Sydney during 2023 and 2024.
- Possible through partnerships between EARLI project, aged care providers and people with lived experience.

What does the EARLI Project mean to you?

Bobby Redman is a dementia advocate and EARLI project advisory group member, who has a professional background in narrative therapy. Bobby recently caught up with our team to pass on her thoughts about this project, and some words of thanks and encouragement for the aged care providers who are contributing to implementing the project in their organisations. You can watch the short interview by clicking on the photo below, or pasting this link into your browser <https://youtu.be/FMMLvCpjic4>.



February Update

Sites commenced: **7**

Sites commencing soon: **2**

Clients screened: **39**

Participants recruited: **13**



National Advance Care Planning Week – March 20th-26th 2023

Advance Care Planning Australia coordinates a National Advance Care Planning week each year, a time to reflect on the importance of these conversations and raise awareness across the community. As part of this year's events Advance Care Planning Australia hosted a webinar on advance care planning for people with dementia, featuring Xanthe Sansome (National Program Director), Dementia Advocates Ann Pietsch and Heather Jacklin, Prof Dimity Pond and Dr Craig Sinclair. A recording of this webinar will be available on Advance Care Planning Australia's website.



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New promotional videos



A range of short (90 second) videos are available, to assist aged care providers in explaining the EARLI project to clients who may be interested in participating. These are available on Microsoft Teams for aged care providers, in English, Italian and (subtitled) simplified Chinese.

Spotlight on Study Sites – Baptistcare NSW/ACT

“When BaptistCare commenced the EARLI project this year we involved our Care Facilitators to identify potential participants. With established trust and rapport, the Care Facilitators can discuss the project and provide clients with information about its purpose, methods, potential risks, benefits, and their rights as participants. We use the EARLI Project study flyers to help in this process.

To ensure proper screening, Christina and myself conducted screenings together to familiarise ourselves with the REDCap system. After becoming competent, we conducted screenings independently, utilising the client database to gather all necessary information required for screening and audits.

Although the biggest challenge was learning to use the REDCap system for screenings and audits, we have been able to overcome this hurdle and now complete the process with ease.”

Sarah Shaddock & Christina Ho – Baptistcare site reps

Methods Corner – Advance Care Planning Audits

Each newsletter includes some brief reminders about key parts of the EARLI project methods. This newsletter focuses on some aspects of the Advance Care Planning Audit, which is part of the role for the study site representatives at each aged care provider organisation.

Each ‘care recipient’ who is formally recruited into the EARLI project (gives consent to participate) will have their aged care client record audited at the start of their involvement (at the time of consent) and after 12 weeks.

- The EARLI project team will notify the relevant staff member (study site representative) from the aged care provider when a client requires an audit of the client record. The email notice includes the ‘study ID’ of the client, to enable data entry in REDCap.
- It is important that **the audit is completed as soon as possible when this notice is received** (max. 2 wks)
- The study site representative searches the client **record for a maximum of 15 minutes**, for evidence of:
 - ACP documents completed **by the person** (e.g. advance care directive, enduring guardianship, or an informal statement such as a letter or advance care plan)
 - ACP documents completed **by a health professional** (e.g. goals of care form, resuscitation plan etc)
 - ACP documents completed **by someone else** (e.g. an advance care plan completed on the person’s behalf by a family member)
- Results are entered into REDCap, using the study ID provided. Queries can be sent to the EARLI project team.
- As the focus is on advance **care** planning, we are not counting documents that set up enduring appointments for financial decision-making, in these audits. So Enduring Powers of Attorney (financial instruments) are not relevant for this audit. The audit tool asks for the name of any identified document to be entered, the EARLI project team will monitor this and make contact with study site representatives if there are any issues to address.
- Detailed information about the ACP audit process is available in a reference manual which is in Microsoft Teams (aged care provider channel) or on request from the EARLI project team.

