

# Issues affecting access to palliative care services for older Chinese people in Australia

**Author/s:** Hsu, C. O'Connor, M. Lee, S. | **Year:** 2005 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** Yes | **Topic area/s:** High Level Care, Palliative Care

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**Key Words:**

Health Services, Palliative Care, Culture, Chinese

**Research aim:**

This paper reports on a review of the literature, in preparation for a larger study, to explore the issues which may influence access to palliative care services for older Chinese patients in Australia.

**Results/Conclusion:**

The review found that ethnic minority groups face numerous problems due to barriers like cultural differences and language. Even though the giving of 'bad news' is not traditional in Chinese culture, evidence suggests that most people seek honesty in relation to their diagnosis and prognosis. The ill person's home is regarded as the place of choice for care, although there may be reticence about dying at home because of the burden this may cause to others. Medical and traditional care are viewed as complementary; with distinctive roles to play in terms of overall health.

**Implications:**

The recommendations for community nurses from this review include being culturally responsive in the many aspects of care for which they are responsible when working in the patient's home. Cultural differences will most starkly be evident in the home environment; thus culturally responsive education about particular issues is important. In addition, communication processes need to be respectful of cultural traditions.

**Cultural Group(s):**

Chinese

**Location of study:**

Australia

**Age group:**

**Number included in study:**

Number of papers included not given

**Type of participants:**

Literature review

**Research approach:**

**Type of data:**

Literature review

**Secondary data sources used:**

Peer reviewed journal articles

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**