

Hack Care: YOLO! 2026

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Death literacy, defined as “a set of knowledge and skills enabling individuals to understand and act upon end-of-life and death care options”, is essential for building a compassionate and resilient society. Despite being a natural phenomenon, death remains a taboo in Singapore, leading to lack of future care readiness.

In September 2025, the first Singapore Death Literacy Index (DLI) study was published. Commissioned by the Singapore Hospice Council (SHC), the study marked the first time Singapore has a quantitative measure of Singapore’s death literacy. The study identified the need to strengthen public awareness and preparedness around death, dying, caregiving, grief and bereavement.

The study evaluated four key aspects and revealed the following key findings:

1. Factual Knowledge

Almost only a third of Singaporeans knew how to navigate the healthcare system to support a dying person (31.9%), know the regulations involving a death at home (26.4%), or prepare the necessary end-of-life documents (33.6%).

2. Community Knowledge

Less than half knew people who could provide them with emotional support if they were caring for someone at the end of life (43.1%), were aware of how to access community EOL support & resources (38.3%), and only about a third knew who to seek help from for day-to-day caregiving (34.5%).

3. Practical Knowledge

While more than half felt confident talking to a healthcare professional about support for a dying person (55.3%) or providing basic care (52.2%), many remained unsure of how to speak to or comfort a newly bereaved person (39.6%).

4. Experiential Knowledge

Although most people reported becoming more compassionate (66.5%) and reflective (63%) after experiencing death and loss, less than half felt emotionally equipped to support others through similar experiences (45.7%).

These findings underscore the importance of empowering individuals and communities, especially youths, to build confidence and compassion in navigating end-of-life matters. This competition thus calls on youths, as future caregivers and patients, to reimagine future care readiness and shared responsibility for end-of-life in the community.

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Rules and Regulations

Participants are required to develop a proposal that addresses one or both of the following questions:

- (i)** How might youths shape healthier norms and community practices around death, dying, and grief to strengthen community capability and confidence?
- (ii)** How might youths make end-of-life learning and planning simple, relatable, relevant, and part of daily life?

Participating youth(s) are highly advised to craft a proposal which:

- Addresses at least one key gap or finding identified in the DLI
- Is new, creative, culturally relevant, and grounded in the local context
- Is designed for the general public
- Is youth-led
- Shows potential to be scalable, sustainable, community-ready, and can be realistically piloted within 3-12 months

Eligibility Criteria

1. Participants must be existing full time students studying in Singapore, aged between 15 to 25 years at the time of application.
2. Participants may compete as an **Individual** or as a **Team** of up to a maximum of 5 persons.

Orientation Day, Ideation Period and Pitch Day

3. **Orientation Day** will be held in-person on **23 May 2026, Saturday (10am to 4pm)**. There will be two segments to the programme on this day – Palliative Care 101 Course and Meet-the-Professionals session. This will allow Participants to have an in-depth knowledge on palliative care services and field questions.
4. The **Ideation Period** will be from **24 May 2026 to 21 June 2026 (2359)**. Participants will take this time to craft their proposals.
5. **Pitch Day** will be held in-person on **18 July 2026, Saturday (9.30am to 1pm)**. Shortlisted teams are required to present their proposals to a Judging Panel in a 10-minute presentation followed by a 10-minute Q&A. We will also display all submitted proposals at a poster area.
6. Attendance is compulsory for both Orientation Day and Pitch Day.

Submission Details

7. Submitted proposals must be formatted as **digital A1 posters**, containing all presentation content within the designated space.

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8. If Participants utilised alternative forms of media or tools such as social media platforms, video creation, or surveys in the development of their proposal, they must submit them as supporting files and/or documents along with their final proposal.
9. Participants must submit their proposals to **info@singaporehospice.org.sg** by **21 June 2026, 2359hrs.**

Prize Money

10. Multiple awards may be presented to deserving proposals:
 - a. Gold Award : \$2,000 each
 - b. Silver Award : \$1,000 each
 - c. Bronze Award : \$ 800 each
 - d. Merit Award : \$ 100 each
11. In the event that there are no deserving proposals, the Judging Panel may decide not to award a prize for any award category.

Judging Guidelines

12. Submitted proposals will be judged based on four key criteria:
(a) Originality (b) Scalability (c) Overall Impact and (d) Presentation and Pitch
13. Decisions and judgement made by the Judging Panel and SHC are final and conclusive.

Code of Conduct

14. Participants should demonstrate respect, inclusivity, and professionalism at all times.
15. The use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, should only be for reference purposes only. All submissions must be original and the authentic work of the Participants. SHC retains the right to disqualify submissions if they are found to be AI-generated.
16. Proper attribution and acknowledgement must be given for any reference and/or data used.

Others

17. SHC retains full discretion and authority over all aspects of the Competition, including the right to amend the rules and regulations at any time, with or without prior notice.