



4 June 2015

## From the CEO –Liz Callaghan

[National Palliative Care Week 2015](#) was a great success with many events held around the country. The response to the weeks activities and theme on social media was terrific. Palliative Care Australia (PCA) would like to thank everybody who participated in spreading the message Dying to talk; talking about dying won't kill you.

The online competitions held through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) complemented our events and enabled PCA to engage with the broader palliative care community. We were able to cement the role of our dinosaurs– Pal and Carey—and build them into an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of palliative care. Jenny Egan won the last online competition of the week, responding to our question: The most important thing at the end of life is... with: "With dignity and peace...when I close my eyes at my journeys end, I'm content with the person I've become, where I've been and the life I've lived".

This week I met with Janine Mohamed, CEO, [Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives \(CATSINaM\)](#) and discussed the planned PCA [13th Australian Palliative Care Conference \(APCC\)](#) pre-conference workshop to be held on 1st September which will identify practical activities palliative care health providers can undertake to close the gap.

I was interviewed by [ABC 774 radio](#) about PCA's new [Guide to a Social Media Afterlife](#) on Tuesday. The guide was launched by Senator Fiona Nash last week at the Parliamentary Friends Lunchbox meeting.

Yesterday I attended the [Close the Gap](#) steering committee meeting. where planning for next years' Close the Gap event has already begun. I also met with [Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia \(FECCA\)](#) to discuss working together to raise awareness about palliative care. It is expected that in the second half of the year PCA and FECCA will hold joint consultations with a number of culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Senate estimates were also held this week. Estimates of government expenditure are referred to Senate committees as part of the annual budget cycle.

This opportunity to examine the operations of government plays a key role in the parliamentary scrutiny of the executive. [Click here](#) for the transcripts relating to questions raised this week about palliative care.

Whilst NPCW might be over for 2015 it does not mean the work of raising awareness in the community will stop. PCA will be working hard to continue the momentum that has been created through social media and continued community engagement.

PCA have also launched into the next big event on our calendar: [the APCC conference](#). Early bird registrations closed last Friday and we are pleased to announce we have received over 350 registrations so far. If your abstract has been accepted, there is an extension for the early bird registration until Thursday 11 June 2015.



Left to right: Love Your Sister co-founder Connie Johnson, Senator Fiona Nash and PCA CEO Liz Callaghan at Parliamentary lunchbox

## PCA Policy Submissions

### Submission to the Draft Independent Hospital Pricing Authority Work Program 2015-16

The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA), established to implement national activity based funding (ABF), called for submissions on its work program for 2015-2016. PCA welcomed the commitment by IHPA to continue to deliver its work on ABF, and reiterated concerns raised in PCA's submission on the 2014-15 work program. PCA would continue to promote concerns and issues for palliative care through PCA's representation on the IHPA Subacute Care Working Group.

Please find the submission on our website [here](#)

## NHMRC

**NHMRC Key Application Dates** - Partnership Projects and Postgraduate Scholarships applications close Wednesday 24 June 2015.

For the full Funding Calendar [click here](#)

### **Provide your feedback on the NHMRC's new clinical trials initiative "Clinical Trials Ready"**

NHMRC has developed an initiative to officially recognise clinical trial sites including public and private hospitals and other organisations that are ready, willing and able to carry out high quality clinical trials in a timely, transparent and efficient manner. This proposed initiative is known as Clinical Trials Ready. NHMRC is now conducting a consultation on this initiative. Submissions to the consultation close Friday 12 June 2015.

For further information [click here](#):

## ACT Carer Workshop

### **Training to Support Carers of Palliative Care Patients – ACT workshop**

Carers Australia, in collaboration with Palliative Care Australia (PCA), are delivering training for workers who support carers of palliative care patients. This training aims to increase the knowledge and skills of counsellors and other health professionals who are working with carers caring for someone in palliative care. The training is offered as two one-day workshops for two different audiences:

- Day One – 7 July – 9am to 3.30pm For counsellors and others working with carers of people in palliative care.
- Day Two – 8 July – 9am to 3.30pm Incorporating PCA networks to aid health and community sector professionals working with carers of those in palliative care.

**Venue:** General Meeting Room, Carers ACT, 80 Beaurepaire Crescent, Holt, ACT (There is limited parking at the front and some parking at the back.)

**Facilitators:** The two days will be facilitated by Vic Dwyer from Silver Chain and Susan Abbott from Carers Australia. Certificates of Attendance will be provided to participants and may count towards professional development points.

**RSVP:** To secure your place in the workshop, please contact Pen Roberts [Pen.Roberts@carersact.org.au](mailto:Pen.Roberts@carersact.org.au) or (02) 6296 9900.

## eHospice Australia:

### **Featured in eHospice this week:**

- [Easier public access to information on clinical trials](#)
- [Being utterly alone; a case study](#)

## New PCA Website

As many of you are already aware, PCA has updated their website. Due to these updates various changes have been made.

### **PCA Brochures:**

We no longer have an order form to order hard copy brochures. Our new brochures are under the [I'm a Patient, I'm a Carer](#) and [I'm a Health Professional](#) pages under the sub heading resources. These are for download only. If you would like to order the old hard copy brochures please email [pcainc@palliativecare.org.au](mailto:pcainc@palliativecare.org.au) with the brochure name, amount of brochures and a street address. **Please note:** PCA are no longer producing these brochures so they will only be available until they run out. If you have any questions about these changes please email [pcainc@palliativecare.org.au](mailto:pcainc@palliativecare.org.au). To download the new brochures please [click here](#)

## News Briefs

**National Carer Gateway** - The Australian Government announced as part of the 2015-16 Budget, a commitment of \$33.7 million over four years to better streamline carer services and deliver a National Carer Gateway. [Click here](#) for an update.

**Palliative care worker doesn't focus on death**—Most people would imagine working with the dying would be an unhappy job but Southern Downs palliative care co-ordinator Kim Youlden said her role was mostly rewarding. To read the full article [click here](#)

**Nurse's story: the pain and challenge caring for dying teen**— Palliative care nurse Jenny Burt can remember how difficult it was losing a 14-year-old patient in her care. Last week, Ms Burt and her colleagues marked Palliative Care Week at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Lismore. To read the full article [click here](#)

### **GP Hubs—GPs gain free access to updated evidence-based palliative care resources**

The CareSearch GP Hub adds to a growing range of resources for GPs that includes palliAGED, a new smartphone app developed by CareSearch as part of the Decision Assist Program. For more information [click here](#)

### **COTA Australia's National Policy Forum: Gender and ageing—equity and diversity in later life**

**What:** In 2015 COTA Australia will again bring together a group of outstanding individuals to explore what is needed to ensure that the genders have the same opportunities and are equally well prepared for later life.

**When:** 9:00am—5:00pm Thursday 2 July 2015

**Where:** National Press Club Canberra, ACT

**RSVP:** For more information visit their [website](#). For further inquiries email: [events@cota.org.au](mailto:events@cota.org.au) or call (03) 9909 7910