



# National Consumer and Carer Representative Panel

## FACT SHEET

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Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is the national peak body for palliative care. We represent all those who work towards high quality palliative care for all Australians. We are happy to announce the establishment of a National Panel of consumer and carer representatives to give voice to the lived experience of palliative care in Australia with the ultimate goal of improving quality and access of palliative care throughout the country.

### **What is the National Consumer and Carer Representative Panel?**

The National Panel is designed to foster opportunities for consumers and carers to engage in palliative care health policy, service delivery and reform activities on a national level.

### **How do you become a panel member?**

Membership selection occurs through a review process on an annual basis (or as needed). The call for applications will occur on a national level through our e-newsletter and advertised on our website. A panel of PCA employees will make the selection based on the skills, experience and commitment outlined in the application.

### **Who is eligible to be a panel member?**

- Consumers - people receiving palliative care for a life-limiting illness
- Carers - people who have provided care in the past or are currently caring for a person receiving palliative care
- Family members of a person who has or is currently receiving palliative care
- Volunteers – people who have experience caring as a volunteer for a person receiving palliative care

### **How many panel members are there at one time?**

In 2019, the National Panel will consist of a team of six trained palliative care consumers and carers from across Australia. Eventually the panel will consist of up to 10 members.

\*Reserve members are also selected through each membership review. The opportunity to become a full member is an option once a vacancy becomes available.

### **What specifically will panel members do?**

Panel members use their lived experience, knowledge of the palliative care sector and communication skills to advocate for and promote the issues and concerns of palliative care consumers and carers. The expectation is that panel members will:

- Participate in an initial induction training and annual workshop to gain skills and expertise in advocacy, policy development, communication to leverage experience with palliative care to improve the sector
- Represent consumer and carer issues on a national level, beyond personal experience on project engagement activities

- Organisations may seek to have panel members involved in a number of different ways. This may include the following:
  - Participant on national committee
  - Advisor to Board
  - Part of a working group
  - Conduct evaluations
- Submit reports (verbal or written) following representative activities for data collection
- Work respectfully with fellow panel members and the secretariat

### **What if I am unwell or don't want to take part in a project?**

Panel members are able to opt out if they believe they cannot contribute in a meaningful way or are unwell.

### **How long is a term on the panel?**

There is no required term for participation. Yet, we encourage panel members to remain on the panel for at least one year. Panel members may remain on the panel for up to five years.

### **Will I get paid?**

PCA will work with each organisation before the promotion of a project to ensure the conditions are reasonable. Project details will be shared with panel members through a terms of reference (TOR) document before the start of the project. Sitting fees, travel, accommodation and project costs will be covered by the host organisation.

PCA will cover panel member's expenses related to attending the annual workshop. As the workshop is a training and development opportunity, sitting fees are not provided for attendance.

### **How will I be paid?**

Panel members are encouraged to seek their own individual advice with respect to the taxation implications of receiving payments for attending the Consumer Panels. Payments to Panel Members will only be made on the provision of either:

1. A valid tax invoice which states the Panel Members Australian Business Number; or
2. A statement by a supplier which outlines the reason for not quoting an *Australian Business Number*.

PCA will provide support and guidance in applying for an ABN number, if desired.

### **Who do I contact if I have questions about the panel?**

If you have any questions about the panel or you have any questions about this fact sheet, please contact: Tim van Ierschoot, Community Engagement Coordinator, on 02 6232 0721 or email [tim@palliativecare.org.au](mailto:tim@palliativecare.org.au)

### **Flexibility & Support**

We acknowledge the potential barriers to participating in training, projects and travel that panel members may face as panellists may be people who are currently receiving palliative care treatment or be providing support for a person receiving palliative care. We have given careful consideration to this and have created supportive and flexible policy and procedure to accommodate and meet the diverse needs of this panel, including video conferencing ability.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION - YOUR VOICE MATTERS***