



Media Release

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***Final Footprints* video starts important but challenging conversation on 'death and dying'**

A new palliative care video resource, *Final Footprints: My Culture, My Kinship, My Country*, launched online today during NAIDOC Week, examines safe and appropriate ways to approach the challenging subject of 'death and dying' with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The video highlights the importance of having discussions early on with your kin and community and having your final wishes written down and provides food for thought on the importance of palliative care.

The video will be showcased today during a live [webcast](#) hosted by ABC Presenter Dan Bouchier, with an expert First Nations panel sharing their cultural knowledge and experiences and examining how traditional and modern ways may successfully co-exist in today's society.

Yawuru man Jonathan Dodson-Jauncey, a palliative care expert and the President of Palliative Care Northern Territory, features in both the video and on today's panel.

Mr Dodson-Jauncey says awareness and understanding of palliative care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is one of the biggest issues.

"Whilst our people have been looking after our old people for thousands of years, if you go across all our Aboriginal tribes right across Australia, you won't find a word for palliative care.

"Our people are often misinformed; they're frightened of it because they believe palliative care is simply caring for someone in the final days of their life. Whereas palliative care is bigger than that. It's about caring for people much earlier on and giving them the quality of life," Mr Dodson-Jauncey said.

The webcast will examine the importance of Country, and being on Country, especially near the end of one's life or for ceremony, the use of 'death and dying' language in community and why it is uncomfortable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to talk about end-of-life.

The panel will also discuss why it's important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to express their 'finishing up' wishes and talk about palliative care while they are well.

"We're living in a society now where there are two worlds coming together, and in many ways, our traditional ways and our culture is slipping away.

"Many of the people who hold the information are our elders, and it's important we are having these conversations so these people can be well enough in their later stages of life to pass on the culture and those stories," Mr Dodson Jauncey said.

Media contact: Jeremy Henderson – jeremy.henderson@palliativecare.org.au – 0425 559 710
palliativecare.org.au



Palliative Care Australia (PCA) Chief Executive Officer and PCA's Reconciliation Action Plan champion Camilla Rowland says the video offers important cultural learnings about our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, their traditions, and how we can all contribute to supporting these.

"As the national peak body for palliative care, our mission is to influence, foster and promote the delivery of quality palliative care for all who need it, when and where they need it.

"Palliative care must be seen as a universal human right, available to all Australians, but also delivered in a way that respects and honours traditions, values and cultural practices of our First Nation People", Ms Rowland said.

PCA has this week also launched its second [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP), which lays out important steps that PCA will be undertaking to work towards reconciliation in Australia.

"PCA was a founding member of the National Close the Gap Committee in 2006, and PCA remains committed to strengthening and growing our collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities," Ms Rowland said.

[END]



The banner features the Palliative Care Australia logo on the left, which includes a '30 Years' anniversary mark and the text 'PalliativeCare AUSTRALIA PROMOTING QUALITY PALLIATIVE CARE SINCE 1991'. To the right are four circular headshots of the panelists: Dan Bouchier, Jonathan Dodson-Jauncey, Kathryn Hooper, and Cindy Paardekooper. Below the headshots, the text reads: 'Having a Yarn Final Footprints: My Culture, My Kinship, My Country'. Further down, it says 'You are invited to a live webcast' followed by a white box containing '8 July 2021' and '12pm AEST virtually'. At the bottom left, the hashtags '#palliativecare' and '#NAIDOCWeek' are listed.

Live Webcast – Having a Yarn – Final Footprints: My Culture, My Kinship, My Country

Thursday, 8 July 2021, 12 noon AEST

Warning: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this event may contain the (images/voices/names) of people who have passed away. The session will include discussion on "death and dying", "finishing up", "sorry or sad business", or "sorry camps", and "palliative care".

In celebration of [NAIDOC Week 2021: Heal Country!](#), Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is delighted to extend an invitation to you to join our live webcast – Having a Yarn – Final Footprints: My Culture, My Kinship, My Country at 12 noon on Thursday, 8 July 2021.

Join our host, [ABC presenter Dan Bouchier](#) as we launch the video **Final Footprints: My Culture, My Kinship, My Country** and have a discussion with our expert panel members to explore the importance of palliative care to our First Nations' peoples, the use of 'death and dying' language in our communities, documenting your end-of-life wishes, how traditional and modern ways may co-exist in today's society and more.

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His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, Patrons

Speakers:

- **Cindy Paardekooper**, a Kokatha woman from the far west coast of South Australia. Cindy is an Aboriginal Consultant for Palliative Care Education, Aboriginal employment and Aboriginal workforce development, and has worked extensively in the National Program of Experience in the Palliative Care Approach Program and Palliative Care in the Northern Territory and South Australia; and is the South Australian Health representative on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Palliative Care Advisory Group. Cindy has a strong desire to support and advocate for Aboriginal people, their families, and communities to achieve improved life outcomes and maintain strong connections to culture, kin, and Country.
- **Jonathan Dodson-Jauncey**, a Yawuru man from Broome in the Kimberley and based in Darwin, Northern Territory. Jonathan is a consultant with expertise in palliative care, health promotion, preventable chronic disease, and community development. He is currently President of Palliative Care Northern Territory and former manager of the National Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach for the Northern Territory.
- **Kathryn Hooper**, a proud Worimi woman representing the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), honours a holistic and culturally safe approach to achieving optimal health and well-being for Aboriginals/or Torres Strait Islander People and communities. Kathryn's career in nursing started at the age of 16, and she has since found her passion in palliative care, dedicating her career to improving acceptance and uptake of palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Kathryn is currently an endorsed Nurse Practitioner, working at St Vincent's Hospital in Brisbane and is undertaking a Masters of Philosophy at QUT and a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Trauma and Recovery Practice at the University of Wollongong.

This event is open to everyone – First Nations' Peoples and the general community. The live webcast will be available on YouTube on **Thursday 8 July 2021 at 12noon**. To view this, [please click here](#). We hope you will be able to attend.

If you are new to PCA and would like to learn more about our work and events, [please subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter by clicking here](#).

If you would like to learn more about the **Final Footprints: My Culture, My Kinship, My Country** video and our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, please email projects@palliativecare.org.au or call 02 6232 0700.

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