

May 2023 Budget Priorities



Mounting pressures on palliative care



Voluntary Assisted Dying

- » VAD laws passed in all States, creating new pressures on palliative care services.
- » Uncertain links between palliative care and VAD services
- » Poor community understanding about what palliative care can offer



Aged care crisis

- » Increase in 65+ population
- » Major reforms underway
- » Variable training and capability
- » Low access to palliative care in aged care facilities and for those in in-home care



Economic headwinds

- Current cost of living placing further pressure on:
- » Unpaid carers with limited access to respite and support
 - » Disadvantaged groups have the poorest access to palliative care, especially in rural and remote Australia



Workforce shortages

- » Shortages among palliative care specialist physicians, nurses and allied health workers
- » General Practice under strain
- » Difficult to attract new workers to the palliative care sector



COVID impact

- » Exposed vulnerabilities across systems
- » Short term and ongoing rise in demand for palliative care
- » Long COVID and comorbidities

What is palliative care?

Palliative care aims to improve the quality of life for people living with a life-limiting illness. Palliative care is a holistic public health based approach to individual needs that treats symptoms which are physical, emotional, spiritual, and social.

A range of health professionals play their role, as well as members of the community. Palliative care is a family-centred model of care, meaning that family and carers can receive practical and emotional support.

Who is Palliative Care Australia?

Since 1991, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) has been the national peak body for palliative care.

We represent all those who work towards the delivery of high quality palliative care to people with a life-limiting illness as well as support for their carers and loved ones.

Professionals in the health, aged care, and community sectors are at the heart of this work.



Good progress so far

- ✓ Aged care reforms well underway
- ✓ 24/7 RNs legislated
- ✓ Training for rural GPs
- ✓ Cheaper medicines
- ✓ Paediatric Palliative Care National Action Plan
- ✓ 17 currently funded National Palliative Care Projects

Acknowledgement of Country

PCA is located in Canberra on the land of the Ngunnawal People. We acknowledge Elders past and present and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the region.

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To fix the palliative care crisis we need to...



Address workforce shortages

- » Govt-PCA partnership on new Palliative Care Workforce Plan
- » Tailored strategies for each strand of the palliative care workforce:
 - Palliative care specialist nurses and physicians
 - GPs and nurses
 - Allied health
 - Volunteers
- » Compulsory undergraduate training



Skill up in aged care

- » Immediate support for new 24/7 RNs to train in palliative care
- » Expand training programs across nursing and allied health
- » Ensure new aged care funding system does not prevent timely access to palliative care



Increase investment in services

- » Fill the gap in access to home- and community-based palliative care
- » Establish new KPIs to track access to palliative care across all settings
- » Negotiate new National Palliative Care Funding Agreement



Ensure equity of access for high needs groups

- » Carer support
- » Innovative approaches for diverse groups and thin markets:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - Culturally diverse communities
 - People with disability
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - Regional and rural communities
 - Other vulnerable groups



PROPOSED MAY 2023 BUDGET MEASURES

Develop new Palliative Care Workforce Plan

\$2.75m
over 3 years

KPMG estimates that a

\$1

investment in:

Train 24/7 aged care RNs in palliative care

\$20.1m
over 3 years

Palliative care Innovative models in residential aged care delivers a return between



Expand access to palliative care via in-home and community settings

\$240m
per year*

Integrated community and home-based palliative care services can return between



Increase the number of specialist palliative care services

\$250m
over 5 years (\$50m per year)*
Plus matching funds from States/Territories

Palliative care in hospital delivers a return between

