

E-News

Asteroid or ice age?

Asteroid!



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

National Palliative Care Week 24—30 May 2015



Monday 25 May 2015

[His Excellency the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove](#) launched [National Palliative Care Week](#) by planting a lone pine at [Clare Holland House hospice](#) in Canberra, ACT.

At the morning tea, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) President Professor Patsy Yates said recognising it is important to acknowledge the particular needs of veterans in hospice care in the 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli.

The [Lone Pine Project](#), will plant seedlings in hospices around the country, to highlight the needs of veterans receiving palliative care.

The Governor General took care to meet and thank for their efforts in providing care and comfort to those receiving palliative care.

Many Australians benefit from the work of palliative care professionals and volunteers who work in the community so that people can die at home or those who support them through hospice and other services.

Dying to Talk Videos

PCA's Dying to Talk videos of Connie and Jean were screened at the lunch before they spoke. The videos are available on our [website](#).

Tuesday 26 May 2015

Today Palliative Care Australia (PCA) hosted the Parliamentary Friends of End of Life lunchbox with the theme: Dying to talk. Speakers were the Honourable Senator [Fiona Nash](#), comedian [Jean Kittson](#) and [Love Your Sister](#) co-founder Connie Johnson.

Senator Nash talked about the significance of palliative care and launched the [Guide to Social Media Afterlife](#). This guide will help people prepare for their social media (including Facebook and Twitter) afterlife.

Speakers at the event raised issues around community mind-sets and needing to be brave. It's important to understand talking about dying will ease the pressure of big decisions toward end of life. Connie Johnson spoke about her personal experience receiving palliative care and how thankful she is that her loved ones know exactly what she wants before and after her death.

Another point discussed was phrasing and euphemisms to describe death—another way in which the community avoid the subject. Comedian Jean Kittson advocated for using the words 'death' and 'dying'. She likened avoidance of the phrase to being like 'Voldemort'.

The lunch attracted over 60 Members of Parliament, Senators and other dignitaries who showed their support of palliative care and the importance of talking about dying.

