



Media Release

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\$35 million to support dying at home

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan welcomes the announcement by the Labor Party to invest \$35 million over four years to roll out new models of palliative care.

The [ALP policy announced today](#) has recognised the importance of trying to achieve an increase in at home death rates, something that we know Australians want.

A national survey, released to mark National Palliative Care Week (22-28 May) showed that 70% of Australians would like to die at home, whilst the national average at home death rate for Australia sits around 14%.

“The announcement of support for palliative care at home packages will see Primary Health Networks (PHNs) funded to commission the services that Australians need in order to stay at home at the end of their lives.” Ms Callaghan said.

“The trial of packages for 4,000 Australians who are receiving palliative care will hopefully mean these people can be supported to die at home if they wish. A trial will allow close examination and evaluation of the care model and perhaps lead to a national roll out,” Ms Callaghan said.

PCA also welcomed the ‘Proactive Palliative Care Model’ proposed for residential aged care.

“This model will fund specialist palliative care needs rounds and case management across pilot sites. We know this in-reach model to support palliative and end-of-life care in residential aged care is a model that works and can make a positive difference to someone’s end of life care,” she said.

The initiative to support paediatric palliative care is also significant says PCA President Professor Patsy Yates.

“The death of a child has long-term effects on the lives of parents and other family members. There is currently a gap in resources and support available in Australia for paediatric patients, their families and health care teams and this announcement will help bridge that gap,” Ms Yates said.

PCA have long supported the development and implementation of a single common legislative requirement regarding advance care planning across Australia. PCA therefore welcomes the announcement that a Shorten government would work with the states and territories, through the Council of Australian Governments, to expand the use of consistent advanced care directives across Australia.

“This issue has been raised by the health workforce and consumers for years. If something happens to you and you are holidaying in a different state or territory chances are your advance care directive will be ignored,” Ms Yates said.

Ms Callaghan said PCA was pleased to see palliative care singled out as a health priority.

“An investment in palliative care is an investment in the future sustainability of the health care system” Ms Callaghan said.

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