



# Media Release

Wednesday, 27 May 2015

## Educating all health workers in end of life is vital

Educating the full range of workers in the health care system on how to support patients at end of life will improve the level of care they receive and an innovative project in the Riverina will do just that, says Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan.

Ms Callaghan said the Listen, Acknowledge, Respond project announced today by Assistant Minister for Health, Senator Fiona Nash, is vital to supporting the work of palliative care.

“We are pleased the Charles Sturt University and Integrated Living have been successful in securing \$3.3 million in funding to deliver this work. It is important our allied health care workers, social workers and others are supported to understand the needs of Australians facing end of life and their particular care needs.

“Palliative care is one of the best examples of medical care. At its best it is a truly multidisciplinary team, with the patient at the centre. Educating more health care workers to support the patient can only improve what palliative care can provide people at their most vulnerable.

“In National Palliative Care Week we particularly welcome this investment from the Government in further developing skills and training in this important area. We recognise the commitment of Senator Nash to improving access to high quality palliative care for all Australians.

“The emphasis on rural and remote services is vital as it is residents in these parts of the country that often struggle to access palliative care.

“We know that 72% of cancer patients who live in a major city were palliative care patients before they died, in rural and remote areas that number is 52%. We need to do more work to ensure where you live does not impact on how you die.

“This week we are encouraging all Australians to talk about dying and have a conversation with those closest to them about their wishes at end of life. This is important so we become advocates for those in our lives who might one day need us to speak for them.

“We only get one chance to get death right for every Australian. It is vital that we make the effort to achieve that,” Ms Callaghan said.

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National Palliative Care Week: Sunday 24 May – Saturday 30 May

[Palliativecare.org.au](http://Palliativecare.org.au)



