



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIA

# Media Release

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## Government move supports living and dying well

The Federal Government's move to amend superannuation access for terminally ill patients will be a relief to thousands of Australians facing terminal illnesses, says Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan.

Speaking after the announcement today that the Government will amend the regulations to change the life expectancy requirement to 24 months, up from 12 months, from July Ms Callaghan said it would alleviate significant financial stress for patients.

"We are thrilled Assistant Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has recommended changes to the legislation which will ease the considerable stress and concern to patients when they are at their most vulnerable.

"We also congratulate Breast Cancer Network Australia for their continued pursuit of this outcome, which will benefit many Australians.

"National Palliative Care Week is but two short weeks away. It will be wonderful to celebrate a week focused on improving the experience of dying for Australians knowing some barriers to a good death, like financial stress, will be diminished.

"The previous system meant Australians managing a life limiting condition had to jump through hoops to have a doctor confirm they were dying. Not only is this a difficult concept for any person to deal with, there is often resistance from doctors to talk about and acknowledge dying.

"Australians need to talk more about the issues of death and dying, including the barriers that prevent people living and dying well. Palliative Care Australia welcomes this move by the Federal Government to make it easier for patients to access their earnings and alleviate some financial burdens.

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