



Media Release

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Lone Pines recognise connection of hospice and veterans

Many Australian veterans have sought the care of hospices as they face the end of their lives, with numbers unlikely to diminish; the Lone Pine Project was born to acknowledge the connection between them.

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) President Professor Patsy Yates says as we recognise the 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli, it is important to acknowledge the particular needs of our veterans in hospice care.

“The Lone Pine Project, which will plant seedlings in hospices around the country, intends to highlight the unique needs of veterans receiving palliative care.

“Hospice care for veterans includes recognising how military service can influence how an individual lives and the way they die and that post-traumatic stress may increase during the process of dying.

“Hospice is one part of palliative care, and in National Palliative Care Week we are celebrating the many services and people who contribute to palliative care around the country.

“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. Their commitment and dedication is recognised by all of us here.

“Palliative care ensures that pain and symptoms are well managed and that people who have a chronic or terminal condition have the best possible quality of life. Palliative care is no longer a one-way street. Many of our patients have many years of care in a palliative environment while also having active treatment. There is a great deal of life in palliative care.

“We encourage all Australians, including our veterans, to have conversations about death and dying and make preparations so that your end-of-life wishes are understood by loved ones.

“Discussions about death and dying, along with early referrals to palliative care, can alleviate stress for the dying person and for their loved ones, and create an environment where health professionals work together as a team — one of the success factors for palliative care.

“We are thrilled the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) can be with us for the first planting of the Lone Pine Project. Sir Peter, PCA’s Patron, is a great support to the palliative care community and we thank him for his contribution,” Professor Yates said.

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