



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIA

# Media Release

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## **Investment in nursing bodes well for access to palliative care**

Access to palliative care services will get a boost from the Federal Government's multimillion dollar investment to increase nurse numbers in rural and remote Australia, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan said.

Ms Callaghan said practice nurses play an important role in supporting General Practitioner's care to patients, particularly around education and identifying support services.

"The investment announced this morning by Health Minister Sussan Ley will make a significant contribution to improving health services. The focus on chronic disease and coordinated care for the elderly will mean more people can be educated about and know how to access palliative care when they need it.

"Research has shown that 73% of city dwellers access palliative care before they die, compared with only 52% of people from the bush. There are good quality services in regional and rural Australia, but people either aren't aware of them or don't understand what they offer.

"This role of educating patients about services and their benefits is just one of the many practice nurses offer our health system.

"It is particularly pleasing that the funding for the Nursing in Primary Health Care program will promote team-based care with a clear focus on the patient.

"Chronic diseases continue to contribute to death rates in Australia and improved care for these patients and a good understanding of their options when they face end of life decisions will be of great benefit.

"We only have one chance to get death right for all Australians and it is important everyone has access to the care they need and are able to make choices about their end of life care," Ms Callaghan said.

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