



# Media Release

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## Indigenous palliative care the focus of 2015 Ian Maddocks Lecture

Palliative Care Australia's (PCA) prestigious Ian Maddocks Guest Lecture will focus on the need to improve service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it was announced today.

Alice Springs General Practitioner Dr Sally Banfield was selected from hundreds of abstracts submitted by authors working or studying in the palliative care field to deliver the lecture at the 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference.

Dr Banfield said it is a huge honour to be chosen and highlight the particular needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when facing the end of life to her palliative care peers.

"It is a privilege to share this case series of Aboriginal patients 'returning to country' for their end-of-life journey. Discussion and debate will only assist in highlighting the unique needs of palliative care patients in our remote region.

"I would like this research to facilitate further discussion, research and thus improve palliative care services for Indigenous Australians.

"In particular, the improvement of service delivery for those remote patients who may choose to 'return to country' during their care," she said.

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan was pleased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues would be discussed at the conference.

"Australia has so far to go in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and the palliative care sector is no exception. I was moved to hear stories about positive and negative experiences of palliative care from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their carers at a recent Palliative Care Northern Territory conference.

"I look forward to working with inspiring doctors like Dr Banfield and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations to further develop policy and leadership in culturally appropriate palliative care for all Australians.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference, Melbourne on 1-4 September 2015. The Ian Maddocks Guest Lecture is delivered on Thursday, 3 September 2015 at 1.30pm.

**About the award:** Professor Ian Maddocks was 2013 Senior Australian of the Year. He introduced pioneering postgraduate courses in palliative care and helped develop palliative care throughout Australia. He became inaugural president of the Australian Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, later Palliative Care Australia.

**For more conference information:** [www.palliativecare.org.au/australian-palliative-care-conference](http://www.palliativecare.org.au/australian-palliative-care-conference)

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