



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIA

# Media Release

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## Emerging researcher making a difference in palliative care

A model of care supporting patients and families facing terminal illness has earned its principal research fellow the Emerging Researcher award at the inaugural Palliative Care Australia (PCA) awards.

Anna Collins, a PhD student from Victoria who is among a team that developed the I-COPE project which provides support and early palliative care intervention to patients with high-grade glioma – a type of brain cancer.

I-COPE provides various forms of support from written resources through to care co-ordination and nurse led interactions to patients and families.

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan said the project grew from a recognised community need and through feedback from patients and families.

“What is really special about this work is that it has its genesis in recognising a need and building a project to improve the experience for families and patients. It has made a direct clinical impact on the palliative care sector and caregivers.

“Ms Collins interviewed bereaved carers and a variety of health care professionals and her research showed that despite recognising a poor prognosis for patients, the need for community support and information these were still not being delivered to patients and families.

“Addressing these needs has resulted in a number of projects, including I-COPE being, developed and piloted to improve palliative and supportive care to patients. This research will lead to positive clinical outcomes for people experiencing palliative care.

“We look forward to seeing the results of this project and how it may influence other work across the sector,” Ms Callaghan said.

The Inaugural PCA National Awards are supported by My Life My Super.

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