



Media Release

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Australian project building palliative care capacity in India

Australian palliative care specialists working to create understanding and clinical expertise in India have been recognised in the inaugural Palliative Care Australia awards overnight.

Project Hamrahi has won the Innovation in Palliative Care Award, acknowledging original practice or service that enhances palliative care delivery.

The project, run by Australasian Palliative Link International and lead by Dr Odette Spruyt and Pallium India, brings together Australian palliative care doctors and nurses with Indian counterparts who are setting up services in India.

Palliative Care Australia CEO Liz Callaghan said Project Hamrahi showed how far Australia had come in contributing to palliative care on the world stage.

“Palliative care is a relatively new sector in Australia, but we are making a difference to other countries who are only now developing their skills in the sector.

“Project Hamrahi is educating Indian health professionals about the value of medications like morphine and building understanding across the health system about the importance of palliative care.

“This will result in more Indians having access to good quality care as they face end of life,” she said.

The project, which was nominated by colleagues, brings mentors from Australia into Indian hospitals offering not just strength in numbers, but also an authoritative voice.

In one instance the Project Hamrahi mentors were able to make a difference within 24 hours. Visiting one site where injectable morphine was not available, the mentors discovered it was the lack of a protocol for drug distribution that was standing in the way of pain relief for a number of patients.

After a series of urgent meetings and education sessions the mentors were supervising the hospital’s very first use of parenteral morphine.

Ms Callaghan said thousands of Indian patients will benefit from the project.

“You can’t underestimate the value of this project, which has been visiting and holding follow up visits with sites since 2010. This will make a considerable difference to those people, their families and their community. It is wonderful to see Australian palliative leaders supporting the introduction of palliative care into other countries,” she said.

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

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