



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

Media Release

Wednesday, 2 September 2015

Diverse issues discussed at Australia's largest palliative care conference

Issues around delivering appropriate Indigenous palliative care, how the dying are marginalised by society and even how social media can be used to support health professionals are all up for discussion at the 13th Australian Palliative Care Conference (APCC) that begins in Melbourne today.

The largest palliative care conference held in Australia the APCC will host more than 800 delegates from around the country, and across the world. Delegates include palliative care doctors, nurses, community carers and academic experts says Palliative Care Australia CEO Liz Callaghan.

"This is an important event for palliative care in Australia. The conference has mirrored the growth of palliative care in our health system over the past 25 years. Many of the people here were part of the introduction of end of life care to this country 30 years ago, still more are the future of the sector.

"Palliative Care Australia hosts this conference every two years. It is important to bring the sector together and this year we are looking at what palliative care needs to do to be fit for the future. What challenges are facing the sector and what can we do to ensure every Australian has a good death?

"One of the key messages is that we have to talk about dying, or we will get it wrong. Life is bookmarked by two major events in everyone's life: being born and dying. We spend a lot of time preparing for the first part of that, but virtually ignore the second."

Ms Callaghan said the international guest speakers would bring their expertise, but also an outside perspective to the Australian system which she hoped they would share with the conference.

"Our keynote speakers will cover topics like social media's role in improving the support offered to health care workers whose work is very emotional and draining. Gail Eva from the United Kingdom will talk about how we discriminate against the dying participating in life because they make us feel uncomfortable. The program is very diverse," she said.

The APCC runs from Wednesday 2-4 September 2015, at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre. The program can be found here:
<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/13apcc2015/Program/>

Media contact: PCA Frith Rayner 0400 45 99 88

