



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

Media Release

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New health ministry broadens focus on care

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) welcomes the return of ageing to the health portfolio and congratulates Minister Sussan Ley on her additional responsibilities, says PCA CEO Liz Callaghan.

Today's announcement returns ageing from social services to health, putting the priority on a healthy ageing population.

"Assistant Minister Fifield made a significant contribution to ageing while he had responsibility for the sector and we look forward to continuing to build on this work with Sussan Ley's office in this area. The aged care sector has a big part to play in palliative care and providing palliative care services to people receiving aged care services.

"PCA welcomes the addition of Assistant Minister Ken Wyatt to health and his focus on aged care. The expansion of the health ministry will put a strong focus on health in the Cabinet.

"The elevation of Senator Nash to Minister with a focus on rural health will continue her great work in Indigenous health, drug and alcohol policy and organ donation. Minister Nash has had overall responsibility for palliative care for the past two years and has been a significant contributor to the sector.

"As yet there is no clarity as to whether Senator Nash will continue with overall responsibility for palliative care and we look forward to that announcement. It is vital palliative care retain a profile in the ministry as Australians need for palliative care will only increase.

"Palliative care is the best example of patient-centred care. A multidisciplinary team works together to achieve the best outcomes for the patient, with their needs and values their primary focus.

"The Government's own 2015 Intergenerational Report anticipates 40,000 Australians living past 100 years of age in the next 40 years, many of whom will be living with a chronic condition and need palliative care.

"We only have one chance to get death right for Australians. It is important Australians have access to the best kind of care, in the right environment that recognises their individual needs as they face the end of their lives." Ms Callaghan said.

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