



Media Release

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Access to palliative care makes Australia a good place to die

Ease of access to palliative care has put Australia second in terms of good places to die in the international Quality of Death Index.

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan welcomed the recognition of the role palliative care has in a good death.

“Palliative care is a great model of care. The patient is truly at the centre of care, with all the clinicians working together with the aim of giving that patient a quality life experience until the end of their lives.

“Australia has held its second position on the index since 2010 which is testament to the hard work being done around the country.

“It’s worth noting, however, that many communities still miss out on palliative care – people who speak other languages, homeless people and often lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex people face discrimination when accessing the healthcare system.

“We need to work harder to ensure all Australians have access to palliative care and the chance to die well.

“The biggest gap between Australia and the United Kingdom is in public awareness of palliative care, PCA has a remit to reduce this gap and has developed a Dying To Talk campaign with prominent Australians talking about dying.

“PCA encourages Australians to talk to their family and friends about what care they want at the end of their lives in order to become advocates for palliative care.

“This Saturday (10 October) is World Hospice and Palliative Care Day with the focus on Hidden Lives, Hidden Patients this is an ideal time to think about broadening our health system to be more inclusive,” Ms Callaghan said.

The Index suggests people living in wealthier nations have better deaths, with high levels of public spending and extensive training resources for general and specialised medical workers and wide availability of pain relief.

The Quality of Death Index, by the Economist Intelligence Unit, was commissioned by the Singaporean Lien Foundation charity and evaluates 80 countries. The UK placed first, and New Zealand was third behind Australia.

Link to the report: http://www.ara.cat/societat/EIU-Quality-Death-Index-FINAL_ARAFIL20151006_0002.pdf

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