

Media Release



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Palliative care now has two supporters in Federal Cabinet

Health Minister Sussan Ley adding palliative care to her portfolio will bring two strong advocates of palliative care into the Cabinet, says Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan.

Ms Callaghan says Minister Ley will be joined at the Cabinet table by Rural Health Minister Fiona Nash who has put a significant amount of time and energy into palliative care while she has been responsible for the sector.

“Minister Nash has been a great supporter of palliative care. She committed to understanding the issues in the sector and worked with us to support community engagement and understanding of death and dying.

“We welcome Minister Ley to her new role and we know she is very interested in palliative care and learning more about the work we do. We look forward to working closely with her and her office on key issues in health that impact palliative care – including various reviews the Government is undertaking.

“We are looking forward to working with her to improve access to, and awareness of, palliative care in Australia,” Ms Callaghan said.

Ms Callaghan said she anticipated both Ministers would continue to promote and support palliative care.

“With both Sussan Ley and Fiona Nash now in Cabinet there will be two very strong voices for palliative care, particularly around access to care.

“PCA would like to see death and dying normalised in the way birth is. We are all connected by two major events in our lives – we are all born, and we all die. A birth involves much planning and discussion, but the same cannot be said for dying.

“With two Ministers in Cabinet who understand the value of palliative care we look forward to continuing this community awareness work with their support,” Ms Callaghan said.

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