



# Media Release

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## Greens Pledge \$76 million for better palliative care

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan welcomes the announcement by the Australian Greens Party to invest \$76 million over four years to improve the palliative care system.

The [Greens policy announced today](#) recognises the importance of Australians discussing their end-of-life wishes with their families and medical professionals by including \$10m for a national awareness campaign.

Ms Callaghan said this campaign would reduce reluctance to talk about death and dying. Supporting these discussions will ensure more people receive care at the end of their life that aligns with their wishes.

“Our survey for National Palliative Care Week (22-28 May) found 82% of Australians think it is important to talk to their family about how they would want to be cared for at the end of their life, but only 28% have done so.

“Facilitating discussions about end-of-life wishes and goals of care will lead to improvements in the ability to deliver patient-centred care,” Ms Callaghan said.

Ms Callaghan said the Greens’ support for establishing a National Cooperative for Palliative and End-Of-Life Care identifies the need for all states and territories to work together to deliver more efficient and consistent palliative care.

“We are glad the Greens are supporting PCA in our request for a National Cooperative for Palliative and End-Of-Life Care. We ask the other political parties to match this pledge for investment in this important initiative,” Ms Callaghan said.

Ms Callaghan said PCA was very pleased to see palliative care services receive extra support, with an additional \$15 million annually to improve services.

“An investment in palliative care is an investment in the future sustainability of the health care system.

“We only get one chance to make sure that every Australian has a good death, and the best quality of life possible, right to the end of their life,” Ms Callaghan said.

Ms Callaghan said the Greens proposed \$1 million investment to research palliative care is needed to improve the quality of end-of-life care.

“PCA has been calling for research to improve the evidence base for palliative care. This research should be a priority due to the burden of chronic disease and ageing on the population and the challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in accessing culturally respectful palliative care,” Ms Callaghan said.

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[palliativecare.org.au](http://palliativecare.org.au)

