



Media Release

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Quality of Life: Important to the End

Palliative Care Australia is calling for end-of-life care to be recognised as a National Health Priority, according to their Election Statement released today.

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan said that this action would acknowledge the importance of palliative care and end-of-life care as being part of life.

"Death is the most ignored part of life. Death is something that touches us all. When you ask someone about their experience with death, some will have joy in their eyes. They will remember the good times. They will recall the death as a sad time, but will focus on the opportunity to share a special time with family and friends.

"Others will look devastated, angry, hurt. They will tell a story of their loved one losing dignity and being treated without respect.

"It is time to shine a light on end-of-life care. We need to make sure that everyone in Australia has access to high quality care, right to the end of their lives. Only then can Australians make a real choice about how they want to live until they die.

"In the lead up to this Federal election, PCA is asking political parties to consider making end-of-life care a National Health Priority. In doing so they will be responding to this issue which touches all in Australia and help to shine a light on issues of quality of care," Ms Callaghan said.

"Ensuring the quality of life right to the end of life is important no matter what age you are. Our Election Statement calls for increased support for paediatric palliative care, recognising the burden associated with caring for a child with a life-shortening illness. It also calls for a study to better understand the quality of death in aged care services.

"You only die once and as a society we only have one chance to get that right," Ms Callaghan said.

Other strategies in the PCA election statement include:

- Support for programs that improve access to high quality palliative care
- Supporting a national Dying to Talk Campaign
- Support for families and carers of people who are dying
- Improving the quality and evidence to support development of palliative care policies and programs into the future.

Read PCA's full election statement here <http://palliativecare.org.au/download/6669/>

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