



Media Release

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PCA applauds Australia's nurses on International Nurses Day

On International Nurses Day, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO, Liz Callaghan applauds the contribution made by nurses in Australia and around the world.

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on 12 May every year, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

"It is estimated that there are almost 350,000 nurses practising in Australia and many of these will be caring for older people, some likely to be in the last year of their life," Ms Callaghan said.

"Nurses provide care in many different settings. Whether caring for people at home, in residential aged care, living with family or friends or in hospitals or hospices, Palliative Care Australia recognises their exceptional contributions.

"Across the health system but in palliative care particularly, the role of the nurse is changing in response to the demands of modern-day healthcare, but the qualities that make a nurse remain the same.

"In 2014 there were almost 350,000 nurses registered to practice in Australia. In aged and community care, there were over 20,000 registered nurses as well as 13,300 enrolled nurses and more than 106,000 palliative care assistants.

"To also acknowledge the work of nurses on this special day, a special app supporting nurses who are caring for older people near the end of life will be launched through the Decision Assist program in both Sydney and Adelaide.

"palliAGEDnurse will provide access for nurses at the point of care and offers the easy-to-use clinical advice based around advance care planning, case conferencing and terminal care," Ms Callaghan said.

The app was developed by the CareSearch Project Team at Flinders University, following the launch last year of the palliAGED app for general practitioners (GPs).

"There is a rapidly expanding knowledge base for clinical practice and it can be challenging for health professionals including nurses to keep their knowledge and skills up to date," Ms Callaghan said.

"International Nurses Day is therefore an ideal day to launch palliAGEDnurse. It's a project Palliative Care Australia is proud to support."

Palliative Care Australia is a consortium member of Decision Assist, an Australian Government funded program. More information is available at www.decisionassist.org.au

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