



Media Release

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Palliative Care Australia Welcomes Turnbull Government's Health Team

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) looks forward to working with the Turnbull Government and Minister for Health Sussan Ley to ensure that Australians receive the investment in palliative care and end-of-life care they deserve.

"The Coalition must make palliative care a priority. 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," said PCA President Ms Patsy Yates.

"We welcome being able to continue working with Minister Ley to improve access to, and awareness of, palliative care in Australia. I look forward to working closely with Ken Wyatt, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, particularly in developing better access and more culturally responsive palliative care models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders," she said.

"We also welcome the opportunity to work with Dr David Gillespie in his role as Assistant Minister for Rural Health to ensure that high quality palliative care is available to everyone, no matter their postcode. His experience as a doctor in rural and regional areas will no doubt prove invaluable to policy development in this sector." Ms Yates said.

PCA will work to ensure palliative care services are included in the Turnbull Government's Health Care Homes trial.

With four out of five deaths in Australia from chronic disease, the Health Care Home model provides the opportunity for coordinated care and early referral to palliative care.

"Patients with chronic diseases can benefit from palliative care which provides pain and symptom management. Far from being just care at the very end of someone's life, palliative care can work with patients and families over many years to ensure better quality of life," Ms Yates said.

PCA acknowledges the hard work of Fiona Nash in her capacity as Minister for Rural Health for overseeing palliative care initiatives during the last parliament.

We also thank the Parliamentary Friends End of Life Care Group for their invaluable support and look forward to continuing working with this group in the new Parliament," Ms Yates said.

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