



Media Release

24 August 2016

Health Care Homes must include palliative care

The introduction of the Health Care Homes provides an opportunity to improve end-of-life planning and care to ensure treatment is in accordance with the patient's wishes, says Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO, Liz Callaghan.

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 when needed.

“Early conversations with GPs about a patient's end-of-life wishes can ensure that treatment is truly patient-centred, where the whole team is working with the patient and their family for the best management of that person's condition.

“Minister Ley has acknowledged that a cohort of patients enrolled in the Health Care Homes will require palliative care and end-of-life care,” Ms Callaghan said.

The development of health care pathways, as outlined in the policy, will need to include identification of triggers for referral to palliative care or end-of-life care services.

“It is important that Primary Health Networks work with palliative care services in their areas to ensure impeccable care is delivered to their population groups.

“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 Callaghan said.

PCA is pleased to see a variety of metropolitan and regional Primary Health Networks announced for the trials of the Health Care Homes model, as the care patients receive should not depend on their postcode.

“PCA would welcome input to the Health Care Home Implementation Advisory Group to ensure that trials meet the needs of people with life-limiting illness,” Ms Callaghan said.

ENDS

Media contact: Grace Keyworth – 0422 040 576
palliativecare.org.au

