



# Media Release

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## **Parliamentarians Receive Education About Palliative Care**

A meeting of the Parliamentary Friends of End-of-Life Care held in Canberra today will introduce members of the 45th Parliament to palliative care experts, a volunteer and a consumer sharing how palliative care has made a difference to them.

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO, Liz Callaghan, says it's important for all members of parliament to understand how valuable palliative care is to people at the end of their lives.

"One thing all Australians have in common is that one day we will die. The parliament needs to support palliative care services to ensure Australians are able to have the best death possible," Ms Callaghan said.

"My message for all parliamentarians is to choose to educate yourself about palliative care, choose to educate your constituents, advocate for palliative care within your party and choose to attend future events held by PCA," Ms Callaghan said.

Ms Callaghan says with Australia's aging population and increase in chronic illnesses, it is important the parliament invests in 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 Callaghan said.

A Victorian woman who supported her husband to die at home last year after a long illness with cancer will be sharing her palliative care experience at the event along with a palliative care volunteer.

Cancer Council Australia CEO Professor Sanchia Aranda and Professor of Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University, Professor David Currow will also address the audience, providing their own perspective on the value of palliative care.

"It's important that members of parliament have the opportunity to hear first-hand from people providing and receiving palliative care, so they can learn the difference quality palliative care can make in the community," Ms Callaghan said.

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

