

Media Release

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New scholarships to assist aged care workforce to learn about palliative care

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) today announced new scholarships that will cover the costs for aged care workers to attend the Australian Palliative Care Conference in September.

PCA CEO, Liz Callaghan said the Continuing Professional Development Scholarships supported by Decision Assist and Palliative Care Australia will give aged care workers who would not usually be able to attend, the opportunity to learn from Australia's palliative care experts.

"While the scholarships are open to everyone working in aged care, those from rural and remote areas will receive special consideration," Ms Callaghan said.

"These scholarships will also provide financial support to those working with the culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex aged care communities.

"Knowledge-related barriers are more complex in these groups and particularly for rural and remote aged care workers to have access to training, support and professional assistance," Ms Callaghan said.

Dr Karen Detering, Medical Director, Decision Assist and Advance Care Planning Australia said Decision Assist is very pleased to be partnering with Palliative Care Australia in offering the professional development scholarships to aged care workers.

"This is an exciting initiative supporting the important work of the aged care work force in caring for older Australians," Dr Detering said.

"We hope these scholarships will provide a valuable opportunity for aged care workers to attend the palliative care conference and learn from experts."

Applications open today and will cover travel, accommodation and conference costs to attend a pre-conference workshop on 5 September and the Palliative Care Australia National Conference in Adelaide on 6-8 September 2017. The conference theme is **Connection with Community**.

For information or to apply for a scholarship, go to www.pca2017.org.au/scholarships.
For more information on the Decision Assist program go to www.decisionassist.org.au.

Media contacts: Grace Keyworth – 0422 040 576 (PCA)
Lisa Reid - 0419 498 913 (Decision Assist)

palliativecare.org.au

