



# Media Release

17 October 2017

## ***Dying to Talk* in the Bush: PCA and RFDS project announcement**

**Palliative Care Australia (PCA) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will work together to support rural and remote Australians to discuss their end-of-life care wishes with their health care team.**

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan says the project will use PCA's *Dying to Talk* resources in RFDS primary care clinics in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia to facilitate conversations between RFDS health professionals and their patients.

"We know that four out of five Australians think it's important to discuss their end-of-life care wishes, but only one in five has had the conversation.

"This project will explore how the use of the app affects a person's willingness to discuss their wishes and then put in place plans for their future care. By using the *Dying to Talk* Discussion Cards, people will be able to work out what's most important to them," Ms Callaghan said.

RFDS CEO Martin Laverty says the project will be assist both patients, family members and clinicians to plan for the future, especially for people who are over 65 or have chronic illnesses.

"Growing old happens to everyone -- regardless of where they live. In cities the provision of end-of-life care is well catered for, but it is not so easy in the bush. Problems of distance and access to specialist services are never easy and managing a patient requiring aged or palliative care within rural and remote areas can be difficult.

"It all starts with a conversation with loved ones and we are confident that this project with Palliative Care Australia will assist in that regard, better understanding the options for end-of-life care and thus more comfortable in decisions on behalf of their family member. The project will also assist health care workers have conversations with people about their end-of-life preferences," Mr Laverty said.

The project is supported by a grant from the Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund and will be completed by December 2019.

ENDS

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