



Media Release

15 March 2018

Palliative Care Australia commits to Reconciliation Action Plan on Close the Gap Day

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan has launched the organisation's first Reconciliation Action Plan in Canberra today.

"While this is our first [Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP), it is by no means the beginning of our reconciliation journey and we are very proud of the steps we have taken so far. Throughout 2018 - 2019 we will work towards achieving the goals set out in the four RAP focus areas of relationships, respect, opportunities and tracking, and progress

"Since our participation as a founding member of the National Close the Gap Committee in 2006, PCA has continued to be involved in a number of important projects aimed at improving health outcomes and creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"With the cultural, spiritual, and religious diversity that underpins our nation, achieving this goal is only possible by taking the time to educate ourselves and ensure our actions are respectful, culturally appropriate and meet the specific needs of each individual receiving care.

"PCA believes that all people have the right to access palliative care that is delivered with cultural sensitivity and respect. We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are particularly dynamic and diverse across Australia, both between different cultural traditions and also between urban and non-urban locations.

"There is a real need to integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions, values and cultural practices, into both organisational policies and service delivery.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to lead by example through the actions outlined in this RAP, demonstrating to our Member Organisations, service providers, carers, and staff the importance and the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their culture and history.

"We are committed to developing culturally safe practices amongst our staff through education, ongoing training and appropriate engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," Ms Callaghan said.

The artwork, Journey of Life, featured in the design of the RAP was commissioned from Aboriginal artist [Sarah Richards – Marrawuy Journeys](#).

Palliative Care Australia is a member of the Close the Gap Steering Committee.

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