



Media Release

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Governor General launches National Palliative Care Week

National Palliative Care Week, which runs from May 20-26 will be officially launched today at Government House, hosted by Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Palliative Care Australia's patron.

The morning tea will be attended by palliative care professionals, patients, carers and local volunteers.

The week's theme is **'What Matters Most?'** which asks Australians to reflect on what would be most important to them if they became seriously unwell.

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan says that PCA is using this year's National Palliative Care Week to raise awareness of the need to talk about your end-of-life wishes with your loved ones and health professionals.

"By having the conversation with their loved ones and health professionals, people can ensure their treatment and care best aligns with their values and preferences regarding both the type and place of care and place of death.

"We encourage everyone to discuss their end-of-life wishes with their loved ones and health care team using the [Dying to Talk Resources](#). Knowing what is important to you will reduce their burden at a difficult time and ensure you get the care you desire.

The week is also an opportunity to celebrate the good work of everyone involved in palliative care.

"National Palliative Care Week allows us to celebrate care providers and support them in their work. PCA will be thanking all palliative care providers and their staff that work tirelessly to deliver high quality, person-centred care at the end of life.

"A special mention also needs to go to palliative care volunteers as it's also National Volunteers Week. Volunteers provide invaluable work in palliative care services. From art and pet therapy, to washing dishes and providing companionship and a listening ear, volunteers do so much to make people's last days as good as they can be.

For a full list of events this National Palliative Care Week, [click here](#).

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