



Media Release

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Palliative Care Australia receives \$1.125 million peak body funding extension

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) Board Chair Dr Jane Fischer says the three year extension to PCA's peak body funding announced by the Minister for Health Greg Hunt today will enable PCA to focus on its new strategic direction.

"The three year extension to PCA's peak body funding until 2021-2022 is very welcome. It will enable us to continue to work hard to achieve our vision of quality palliative care for all.

"PCA's strategic direction for the next three years centres on promoting palliative care as a human right for all Australians, in line with the World Health Organisation's definition of the human right to health. To achieve this, we need palliative care to be recognised as a national health priority.

"Palliative care is person and family-centred care provided for a person with an active, progressive, advanced disease, who has little or no prospect of cure and who is expected to die, and for whom the primary goal is to optimise the quality of life.

"We know that currently in Australia there are many people who would benefit from palliative care who are not able to access it. To improve access, we need a whole of government approach to adequately fund palliative care services, and also provide health professionals with access to palliative care education and training.

"The community also needs to be more engaged with palliative care, dying, grief and bereavement. A national awareness campaign is needed to increase the public's knowledge about how palliative care helps people live their life as fully and as comfortably as possible when living with a life-limiting or terminal illness.

"PCA has developed the [Dying to Talk](#) initiative to assist people to discuss and plan for the end of their lives. This initiative is now expanding with specific resources being developed for people living with dementia, people living in rural and remote locations and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"PCA will continue to lead the palliative care sector as the peak national body. We will work to strengthen beneficial relationships with other organisations to share skills and knowledge to improve the research agenda. PCA will also facilitate appropriate data collection to measure the quality of life, dying and bereavement support," said Dr Fischer.

Read the full strategic direction document: <http://palliativecare.org.au/download/12650/>

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Palliative Care Australia represents all those who work towards high quality palliative care for all Australians. Working closely with consumers, our Member Organisations and the palliative care workforce, we improve access to, and promote the need for, palliative care.