



Media Release

28 February 2019

Palliative Care Australia Welcomes Updated National Palliative Care Strategy

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Rohan Greenland says the updated [National Palliative Care Strategy](#) released by the Australian Government Department of Health provides a road map for the future of palliative care services across Australia.

“PCA is pleased that the updated National Palliative Care Strategy developed after comprehensive consultations with PCA, its members and the palliative care sector has been released,” said Mr Greenland.

“It’s also pleasing that the updated Strategy is endorsed by all Australian Health Ministers, so it marks a vital step towards ensuring all Australians who are living with life-limiting illnesses get the care they need to live well.”

Mr Greenland says it’s pleasing to see recognition and agreement from all governments for the needed increase in palliative care services and training of all health professionals about end-of-life issues.

“The Productivity Commission has estimated that around 80,000 Australians would benefit from palliative care each year, and that this number will rise over the next 30 years as our population ages. We need investment in palliative care services and the health workforce to meet this increasing demand.

The goals of the Strategy include:

- People understand the benefits of palliative care, know where and how to access services, and are involved in decisions about their own care.
- Knowledge and practice of palliative care is embedded in all care settings
- People affected by life-limiting illnesses receive care that matches their needs and preferences
- Everyone works together to create a consistent experience of palliative care across care settings
- A skilled workforce and systems are in place to deliver palliative care in any setting
- Robust national data and a strong research agenda strengthen and improve palliative care
- National governance of the Strategy drives action

Mr Greenland says PCA’s future focused [Palliative Care 2030](#) vision complements the objectives of the National Palliative Care Strategy and outlines guiding principles to assist the health, disability and aged care sectors, governments and the general community, to plan and prepare for the future where Australians will live longer, demand an improved quality of life, and access to high quality palliative care when living with a life-limiting illness.

“We know that there is inequitable access to palliative care in Australia, and unless there is significant change in the way it is funded and delivered, these inequities will continue to grow. Australians with a life-limiting illness should be able to access quality palliative care no matter their postcode, diagnosis, ethnicity, socio-economic status or place of care, to enable them to have the best quality of life for as long as possible.

“PCA and its Members look forward seeing the implementation plan for the Strategy and to working with our respective governments, health departments, universities and palliative care services to achieve the Strategy’s goals,” said Mr Greenland.

Media contact: Grace Keyworth 0422 040 576
palliativecare.org.au

