

15 May 2019

Mr Rohan Greenland
Chief Executive Officer
Palliative Care Australia
pca@palliativecare.org.au

Dear Mr Greenland,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your organisation. A response to your questions is attached.

This election will have real consequences for Australia's economy and our future.

Despite global headwinds, our economy is strong. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Government will deliver a Budget surplus.

A stronger economy means we can deliver on our plans to:

1. Create 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years.
2. Maintain budget surpluses and pay down debt.
3. Deliver tax relief to encourage and reward hard working Australians.
4. Guarantee increased investments for schools, hospitals and roads.
5. Keep Australians safe and our borders secure.

The alternative at this election is Mr Shorten. Labor's risky agenda includes billions of dollars of higher taxes – on retirees, housing, incomes, investments, family businesses, electricity and more.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

MORRISON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PALLIATIVE CARE AUSTRALIA

The Morrison Government recognises that good quality, accessible palliative care is a crucial component of the health system.

Providing the services that people of all ages and backgrounds need, when they need it, and in the way they want it, is a priority for the Coalition.

In Australia, the provision of palliative care services is the responsibility of the states and territories. States and territories are required to provide both acute and non-acute palliative care and hospice services as part of their health service provision responsibilities.

The Commonwealth Government provides a financial contribution to state and territory governments to operate palliative care supports as the system managers of public hospitals and community health services. Decisions on the use of this funding and the delivery of palliative care services in each jurisdiction are the responsibility of individual state and territory governments.

In addition to providing this funding, the role of the Commonwealth in palliative care is to provide subsidies for palliative care medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and palliative care consultations under the Medicare Benefits Schedule and to support national leadership, policy and strategy in the palliative care system.

As part of this leadership role, the Morrison Government is currently investing almost \$80 million over three years to strengthen the palliative care system. We are improving workforce education, carer support, community awareness of advanced care planning, and data and research collection.

In the previous Budget we added \$32.8 million to enable aged care residents to receive palliative care, to avoid a distressing and disruptive move to hospital.

Providing quality palliative care to Australians is a national focus – and we are delivering a national solution with the National Palliative Care Strategy 2018. This strategy has six guiding principles: person-centred care, death is a part of life, the value of carers, accessibility, everyone has a role and evidence-based care.

This funding is part of the Morrison Government's Long-Term National Health Plan which is providing Australians with access to quality medical care, record hospital funding, affordable life-saving medicines and breakthrough research for new drugs and treatments.

On Monday 13 May 2019, the Morrison Government announced it will provide funding of \$3.25 million to Palliative Care Australia to develop a national paediatric palliative action plan to:

- provide families of children with high medical needs and life limiting conditions with a single place to go for support and information;
- support the Paediatric Palliative Care online resource hub, website and service directory to become the information centre for families seeking assistance with children who have high medical needs and life limiting conditions;

- provide Paediatric Palliative Care Australian and New Zealand (PaPCANZ) with funding to run an information service assisting hospitals, high care and palliative care providers to support children with complex medical needs and their families; and
- coordinate the development of parent training guidelines so parents (and medical staff) are given consistent advice across hospitals.