

## Perth Statement – 19OPCC Conference (10-13 September 2019)

Over 900 delegates came to the inaugural Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (19OPCC) in Perth, Western Australia, on 10-13 September 2019. The delegates identified what needs to happen from here.

To ensure palliative care<sup>i</sup> continues as a human right for all who need it, there needs to be:

1. Increased and sustained funding for palliative care to enable access to palliative care regardless of geography, gender, cultural identity, stage in life-limiting illness and age.
2. Palliative care as mandatory units in medical, nursing, allied health, pharmacy, and paramedic undergraduate curricula and certificate courses for aged care and disability.
3. Investment in palliative care research and data collection across all palliative care settings.
4. Investment in recruitment and retention strategies to increase the number of specialist palliative care physicians, nursing and allied health professionals.
5. Partnerships with our Pacific neighbours which build on existing initiatives, models of care and programs that are effective and beneficial and learn from these. Support new initiatives driven by local communities.
6. Increased availability and access to essential medicines for pain and other symptoms.
7. Increased awareness and advocacy to support the specific palliative care needs of children and adolescents.
8. Recognition that palliative care is part of essential care in humanitarian disaster responses.

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<sup>i</sup> Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. (WHO Definition of Palliative Care – see <https://www.who.int/cancer/palliative/definition/en/>)