

# MEDIA RELEASE



**Palliative  
Care  
Australia**

## Palliative Care Australia

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## Governor-General emphasises importance of end-of-life care

The Chief Executive Officer of Palliative Care Australia, Ms Donna Daniell said that National Palliative Care Week (24-30 May) is time to celebrate the great progress that has been made in caring for people at the end of life. It is also time to raise awareness.

In a letter of support for a new Palliative Care Australia publication, the Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Patron of Palliative Care Australia said, "I see palliative care as an assurance to our society, at the deepest level, that we are honouring our value for the worth and dignity of every human being".

In a letter to palliative care providers, Ms Bryce said, "Quality care at the end of life is an issue that defines us as a society. Providing quality care at this time is as important as caring for people at the beginning of life".

"Raising awareness in the community of the support available for people who are dying is imperative to the delivery of quality care at the end of life," the Governor-General said in a letter to partner organisations for National Palliative Care Week.

Each year, half a million Australians experience the impact of terminal illness. Building capacity within the community to talk about dying and death, and the knowledge of where to find answers to questions is crucial. We must assist people who are confronting the realities of dying and death themselves, in their family, friendships, work or neighbourhood groups.

When people are well informed, they are better able to access the care they need when it is required. Furthermore, when communities start talking about dying, death and grief, they are better able to support themselves and work to prevent adverse impacts of loss and grief.

This year, the theme is *If only I knew .. finding answers to questions that help us live and die the best we can.*

As Patron of Palliative Care Australia, the Governor-General will be hosting a reception on the occasion of National Palliative Care Week on Wednesday 27 May.

For more information, see [www.palliativecare.org.au](http://www.palliativecare.org.au).

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*PCA is the peak national organisation representing the interests and aspirations of all who share the ideal of quality care at the end of life*

Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia