

National Palliative Care Consensus Statement



Palliative Care Australia

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**Palliative
Care
Australia**

National Palliative Care Consensus Statement

A Call to Action

Palliative care is a fundamental part of Australia's healthcare system and requires adequate resourcing for training, infrastructure and research. This Statement identifies priorities needing urgent action, and goals to achieve what Australians want – a system that supports us all to live well at the end of life.

Priorities:

1. All Australians must have reasonable access to resources to support them to die in the location of their choice.

2. A single common legislative requirement regarding advance care planning must be adopted throughout Australia

3. All Australians have a right to equitable access to quality palliative care when and where needed.

4. All Australians must have access to education about dying and death

Goals:

• That funding is in place by 2015 to ensure reasonable choices in where people want to die.

• That national legislation is in place by 2015 supporting advance care planning and associated documentation without unnecessary jurisdictional variation.

• That palliative care services are networked through electronic and eHealth links by 2015.

• That access to both specialist and generalist clinical services is available when needed in all hospitals, hospices, residential care services and homes.

• That information on dying, death and palliative care is available nationally in a range of languages and formats appropriate for Australia's multicultural society by 2015.

• That dying, death and the role of palliative care are integrated into the personal development syllabus of all schools and the development of the Australian Curriculum by 2015.

Priorities:

5. Adequate and appropriate education in quality end of life care must be a standard provision for all health professionals.

6. The Standards for Providing Quality Palliative Care for all Australians (the Standards) must be embedded in all appropriate care settings.

7. Appropriate funding must be made available by all levels of government to palliative care services on an equitable population needs basis.

8. Research in palliative care must be appropriately funded and targeted.

Goals:

- That revised and updated palliative and end of life care training curricula be in place in appropriate faculties of tertiary teaching institutions by 2015.
- That the Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) is in place in all appropriate faculties of tertiary teaching institutions by 2015.

- That the Standards are adopted in all services providing end of life care by 2015.
- That the National Standards Assessment Program (NSAP) is aligned with organisational accreditation cycles by 2015.

- That all funding priorities identified in this Statement are addressed by the Australian Government by 2020, in collaboration with States and Territories (as outlined in the National Palliative Care Strategy 2010).

- That palliative care and end of life issues are prominent on the national research agenda and funded for clinical, health systems and social research by 2015.
- That an increased number and scope of postgraduate and post-doctoral scholarships in palliative care and end of life issues are in place by 2015.
- That an increased number of post clinical industry placements are available by 2015.

“ This National Consensus Statement is a call to action by PCA and its members to ensure that all Australians have access to quality palliative care and to ensure no Australian with a terminal illness will suffer from preventable discomfort and pain. ”



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