



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Palliative Care – Better sooner than later!**

Professor Margret O'Connor AM, the new President of Palliative Care Australia (PCA), today celebrates the achievements in palliative care service delivery, as she welcomes in the new PCA Board at a celebratory and honorary dinner for palliative care workers and services this evening.

Palliative Care Australia is the national organisation, representing the interests and aspirations of people facing the last stage of their life, their families, professional and non professional carers and their communities.

"Palliative care is special care and support for people, their family and carers. The evidence is growing to support the need for this care to be accessible early in a persons illness, through to bereavement" said Professor O'Connor.

Dinner guest and media personality, Belinda Green, echoes Professor O'Connor comments.

"When I was caring for my family member during their illness and death, I wish I knew what I know now" said Belinda Green. "I am hoping that there is a better way for people to know more about the available care and support and how it may help them."

"People need to know sooner rather than later, as this helps with knowing options and working through the many necessary decisions" said Professor O'Connor "After all, palliative care is everyone's business."

Recent research tells us that the community wants to know more about palliative care. 92% of Australian's agree that they need to know more.

As PCA president, Margaret O'Connor plans to:

- Increase the discussion about dying in our community
- Strengthen the Palliative Care workforce – the special health care workers that each day provide care to over 64,000 people
- Work to enable palliative care to be delivered in all health care settings.