



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 July 2005**

### **Palliative Care Australia Mourns Loss of Dame Cecily Saunders**

Dame Cecily Saunders, the founder of the hospice and palliative care movement died in London last night.

Palliative Care Australia wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution that Dame Cecily made to the modern hospice and palliative care movement in the world.

“ Australia owes a debt to Dame Cecily and her legacy will always be felt and will continue to guide us in how we strive to deliver the best quality care for persons in need. “ Ms Angela Magarry, Executive Director Palliative Care Australia said today.

Dame Cecily started life as a nurse during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, and moved on to work as a social worker. Dame Cecily then trained as a doctor when she determined that the only way to change the culture of care for the dying was to be involved in that.

“ According to Dame Cecily, the best way to care for a dying person was to listen to them, and when we advocate in the interests of the 25,000 patients who will receive palliative care services in Australia this year, we all need to listen.” Ms Magarry said today.

Palliative Care Australia extends its deepest condolences to Dame Cecily’s family and friends.

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Fur further information on palliative care go to [www.pallcare.org.au](http://www.pallcare.org.au)